

# MUSTANG DAILY

1916

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

2006

## TODAY'S WEATHER

High 58°

Low 36°



Clark Foam goes out of business and surfboard prices are on the rise

IN SLO OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, 16

If you haven't heard him, you should

IN DIVERSIONS, 8



Volume LXIX, Number 67

Thursday, January 19, 2006

www.mustangdaily.net

## Showtime on the Central Coast

Dan Watson  
MUSTANG DAILY

For many years, life has talked to Paul Lichtman.

Life told him to put the law book down. It told him to get fired. It mistakenly made him an actor, even without any prior experience.

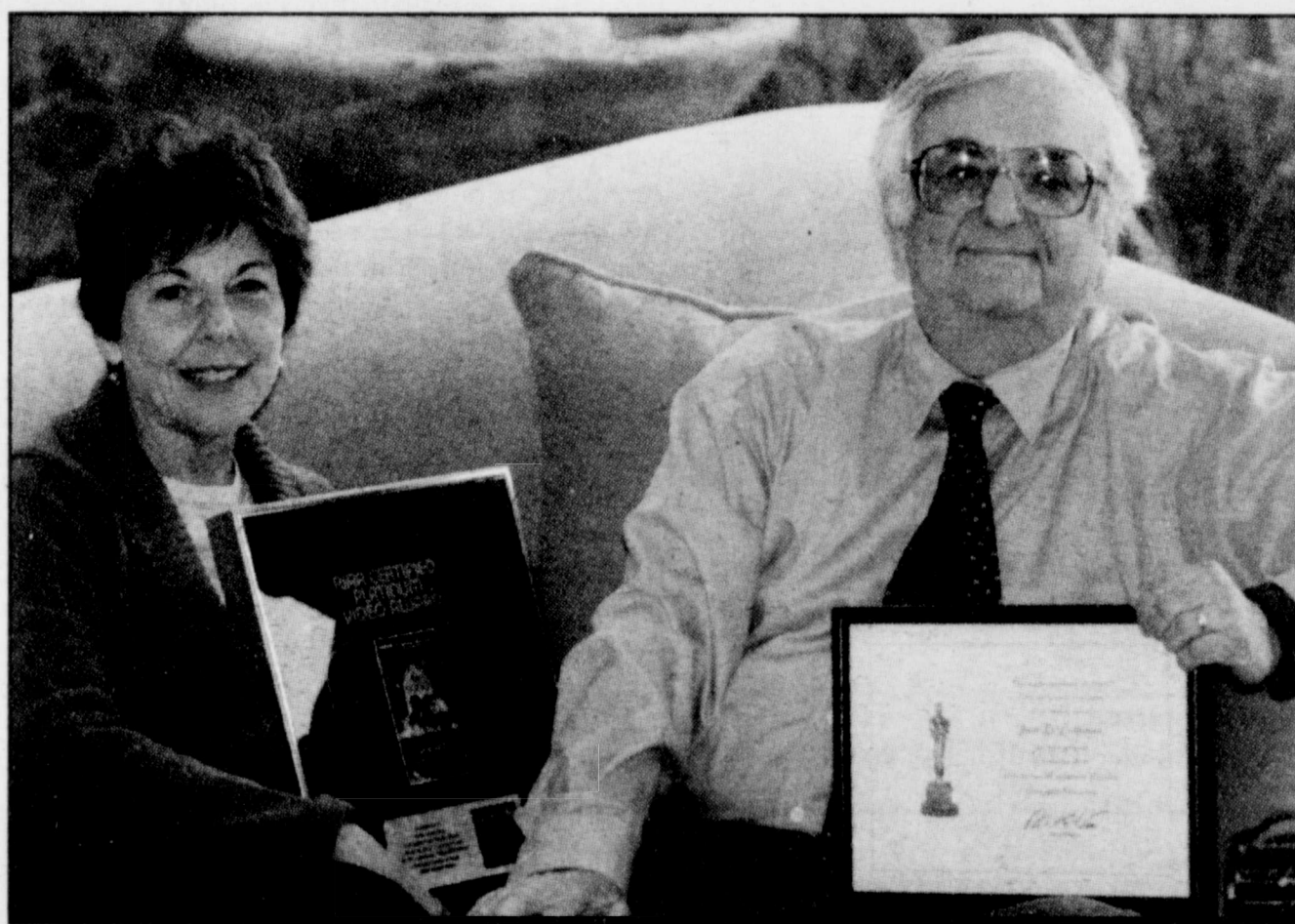
And it led this self-proclaimed "free-spirit" with a unique belief in destiny to a successful 35-year career in show business as an actor, writer and producer.

Lichtman is the type of guy that might strike up a "show biz" conversation with a six-year-old, a dog or even a tree. It consumes him.

His eyes light up, his arms begin to flail with a Broadway flair and he starts to explain everything from acting techniques and proper movie script structures to his real expertise, financing films.

He wears the suit of an investment banker, but has the kind look of a neighbor. He listens with a calculated demeanor, but talks with the flamboyancy of an actor — his stories are packed with famous personalities, from the time he gave actor Dustin Hoffman one of his first jobs to the time David Geffen showed him the ropes.

During a conversation, he turns a frappuccino into a prop, transforms Splash Café into a



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

Paul Lichtman, right, and wife Terry, left, combine for more than 60 years of experience in the movie industry. Paul poses next to his platinum award for producing *Transylvania 6-5000*.

movie set and makes both himself and his interviewer actors. Lichtman wants to show others his achievements are attainable and that working in the movie business is "truly a dream."

His story is inspiring, with enough twists and turns to convince others, as he believes, that it was the only way it could have happened.

### Law and disorder

Lichtman wasn't born in

Hollywood. His dad wasn't a famous actor. In fact, up until age 27, he had never read, written or produced a line on a script.

Instead, he was unhappily trudging through law school at Columbia.

"Law school graduates you as an expert of nothing," Lichtman explained. "I really didn't plan anything. I knew what I didn't want to do, I didn't want to practice law."

After a fellowship with the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation and stint with Mobil Oil Co., Lichtman was "lured away" by the Singer Co.

But it was another dead end. He described his ex-boss in predictable movie fashion.

"He became Mr. Hyde from 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,'" Lichtman said in reference to the 1931 film about a doctor

see Lichtman, page 2

## Education dean heads education review in Kuwait

James Mellor  
MUSTANG DAILY

Universities abroad have begun to look to the western educational system to set international standards of education.

Bonnie Konopak, dean of Cal Poly's College of Education and an expert in accreditation in the United States, recently traveled to one such university in Kuwait to evaluate whether the university was ready to begin the process of attaining international recognition.

"I was asked to go to Kuwait (University) and look at their programs," Konopak said. "They haven't really started (the international recognition) process yet. I went there to see whether they're ready to start this process. To see what policies and planning have been done and what they still need to do before they can officially go through the recognition process."

"It's kind of a consulting type of visit to see where they are," she added. "We want them to be successful as they go through the process, so we need to see if they are ready to get started to go through the process yet."

According to Konopak, Kuwait University is "making good progress" and is only "a year or two" away from beginning the international recognition process. International recognition is a process similar to the accreditation process United States universities must follow.

"Here in the U.S. we have an accreditation processes," Konopak said. "There's a national

see Kuwait, page 2



Bonnie Konopak

## Graphic professionals celebrate International Printing Week

Liz Soteris-McNamara  
MUSTANG DAILY

The graphic communication department is celebrating International Printing Week by featuring professional speakers from all over the globe. The week includes a dedication ceremony of new printing equipment.

The international celebration commemorates the birthday of Benjamin Franklin. This year marks the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth on Jan. 17, 1706.

Graphic industry speakers gave presentations to students about new developments in printing technology as well as the latest encryption techniques. Students attended lectures free of charge.

Department chair Harvey Levenson said the lectures are "a present for our students."

Professionals from international companies known outside the print world such as Xerox

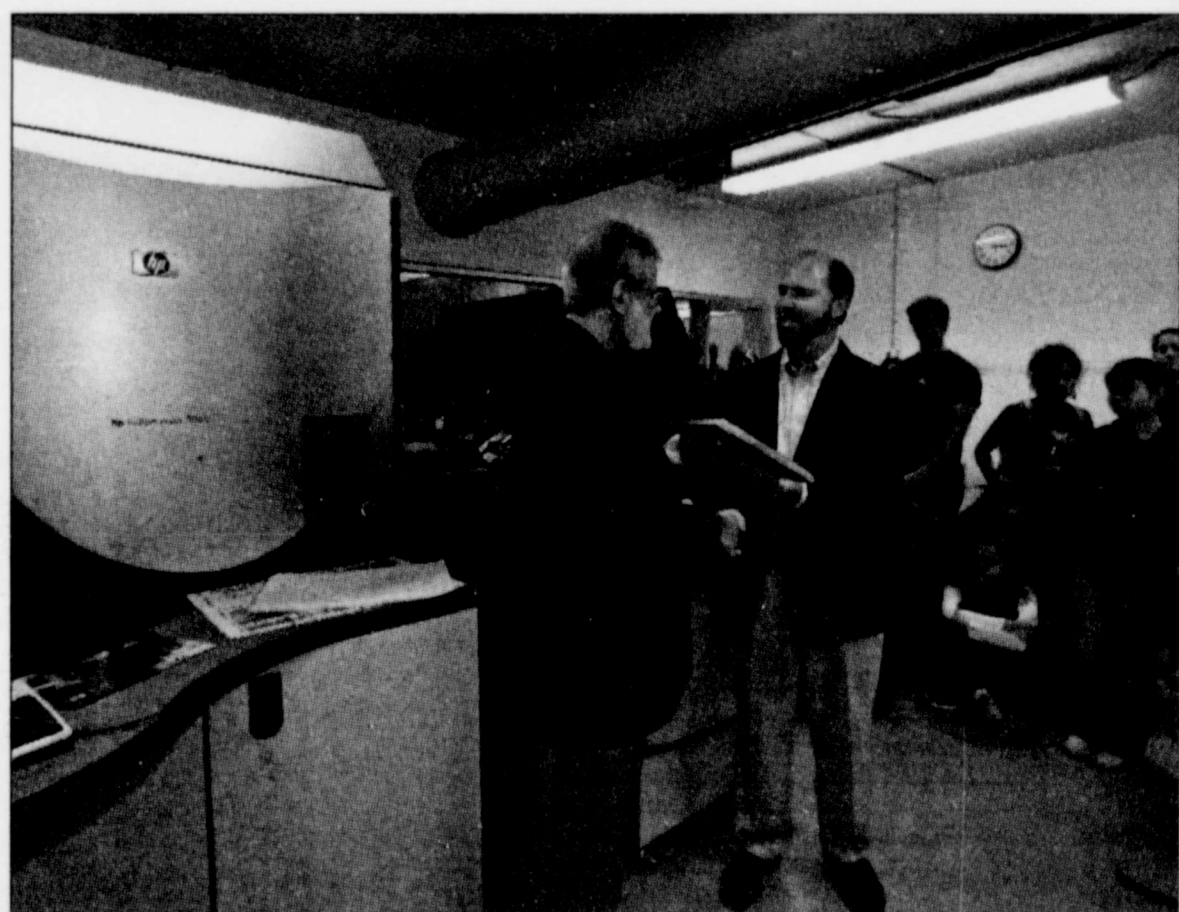
and Eastman Kodak, as well as companies specializing in printing like Goss and Heidelberg, gave lectures.

Lecture series topics included technology and management involved in printing, imaging, packaging and Web development.

Speakers explained new technology in printing, including the Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID), a wireless tracking device used to locate packages, used by shipping companies. Cal Poly has the ability to print labels with RFID, Levenson said.

Ron Selvey, a Cal Poly GrC alumnus and Government Printing Office employee, explained that RFID technology allows encryption specialists to embed signatures and personal photos into documents like passports to aid in the battle against forgery.

see Printing, page 2



BRENNAN ANGEL MUSTANG DAILY

Harvey Levenson, graphic communication department chair, thanks a Hewlett Packard representative for the donation of an HP Indigo 3050 digital press.



## Kuwait

continued from page 1

organization called the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, plus each state has its own accreditation. National accreditation in California is voluntary. Cal Poly is working towards national accreditation, and should go up for it in a couple of years."

Foreign universities don't always have a high national standard of education to look to, so more universities are beginning to look at international standards.

"Internationally, they don't have a process like that," Konopak said. "For example, universities in the Middle East have standards in their own country, but they don't have international standards, something that looks beyond their own country's standards. Many universities are moving in that direction ... they want to look to broader, more globalized standards. In some areas, they look to the U.S. for those standards."

Konopak was chosen to travel to Kuwait because of her involvement on the board of examiners for a national education group.

"Several of us have been asked to work with this new agency in Washington D.C. that sponsors all these international visits," she said. "It's called the Center for Quality Assurance in International Education ... what a university like Kuwait University does is contact this center for quality assurance in Washington D.C. and say they're interested in undergoing this international process. They've agreed they're going to meet all the standards that are set up and that they'll bring in reviewers that will look at their programs and see if they're meeting these standards or not."

According to a Cal Poly press release, Konopak performed a similar evaluation at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates in 2003.

## Printing

continued from page 1

Students attended the lectures instead of going to regularly scheduled classes and had a variety of opinions on their favorite lectures so far.

"The cutting edge technology lecture was the most interesting," said Ashley Whelan, a graphic communication senior.

"I really liked the speaker from Central Coast Magazine," said John Rosas, a graphic communication senior. "I did not know that magazines have to be ready to print every 20 days."

"The freelance graphic design seminar was honest about what to expect in the industry. You're not going to be a millionaire

straight out of college," said Jessica Greenwalt, a graphic communications junior. Greenwalt said she enjoys her major and looks forward to the industry, despite any financial setbacks.

The graphic communications department dedicated all of the new digital printers that the department received last year in a ceremony on Wednesday to Hewlett Packard and Xerox, who donated the digital printers.

The printers were dedicated specifically during International Print Week to commemorate the event at Cal Poly.

Hewlett Packard's sales development and marketing representative, Pete Vorenkamp said that it's "critical to be involved with education and the next leaders."

Vorenkamp said that the donation of the

printer represents a partnership and an investment for Hewlett Packard.

"If you guys learn our technology you will be comfortable with our workforce and you will be more efficient," James Huggins, a Xerox sales director, said.

Students understand that concept as well.

"If students are familiar with particular companies they will use them in the future," said Cece Chen, a graphic communications junior.

The department also plans to dedicate a memorial endowment to honor Terry Bell, a former Atascadero resident and industry professional.

The week wraps up with a career day on Jan. 20 for students interested in a career in graphic communication.

## Lichtman

continued from page 1

that turns into the evil Mr. Hyde after drinking a potion.

Throughout his life, Lichtman has let his free spirit and "the universe" lead him.

When his boss at Singer told him he had to be at work at 9 a.m. everyday — often impossible due to the train schedule — he continued to show up late until his boss "went postal" and fired him.

Lichtman walked straight out of the building and never returned to his office.

It was at that stage in life that this jobless, 27-year-old disgruntled soul would find his purpose.

"The universe reached down," he says with a happy kick in his voice, "and got me into show business."

### Getting started

In Lichtman's apartment, there was a

woman he'd often befriend after a hard day at work. Her father knew the head of the actor's union, who created a position for the down-and-out, yet talented young lawyer.

"You never know who you're going to meet and why you're going to meet them," Lichtman said. "You meet the same people going up as you meet going down."

At Ashley Famous Agency, Lichtman met plenty of people on their way up. He'd learn to read agreements from a younger David Geffen — the now self-made billionaire and founder of Geffen Records — negotiated contracts for actors Burt Lancaster, Kurt Douglas and Flip Wilson and optioned off a number of Broadway shows.

He married in July of 1970, but returned from the honeymoon only to be immediately transferred to California.

Life had another twist for Lichtman, who by January of 1971 would again be without a job.

It's a strange paradox, Lichtman's life philosophy. Taxes are anal he says, dentistry is boring and planning his life has been, for the most part, unnecessary — yet, he has made a career of pinpoint accuracy as a producer of financial planning for the movie business.

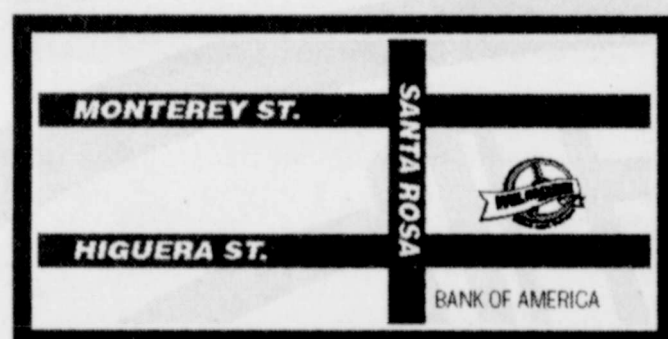
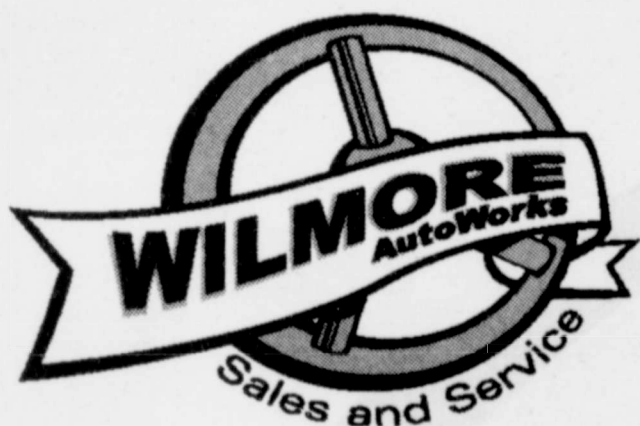
"I believe that life talks to you, I've always lived my life that way. Things open up and close," Lichtman said. "I've never been able to plan what's going on in five years or 10 years. Basically, things came up by accident."

Due to an economical downturn in California, 50 percent of the employees at Ashley Famous Agency were let go, including Lichtman.

His wife, Terry Lichtman — an agent as fanatical about the movie business as him — encouraged him to write.

His spec comedy script landed in filmmaker Garry Marshall's lap ("Pretty Woman," "Murphy Brown," "A League of Their Own"). Marshall was currently producing The Odd

see Lichtman, page 7



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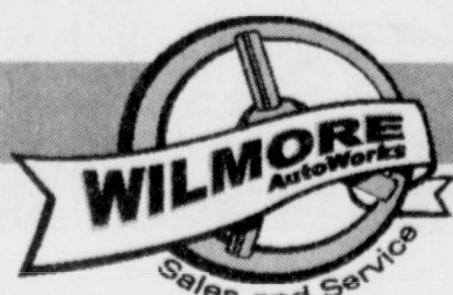
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# MUSTANG MINUTE

Assistant news editor: Erick Smith • esmith00@calpoly.edu

Online: www.mustangdaily.net

Thursday, January 19, 2006

3

## WHO SAID THAT?

If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.

— Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)

The world is a tragedy to those who feel, but a comedy to those who think.

— Horace Walpole

## Wordly Wise

**pallor:** To be pale; lack of color; unnatural paleness, as of the face.

**BREAKING NEWS**  
UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE  
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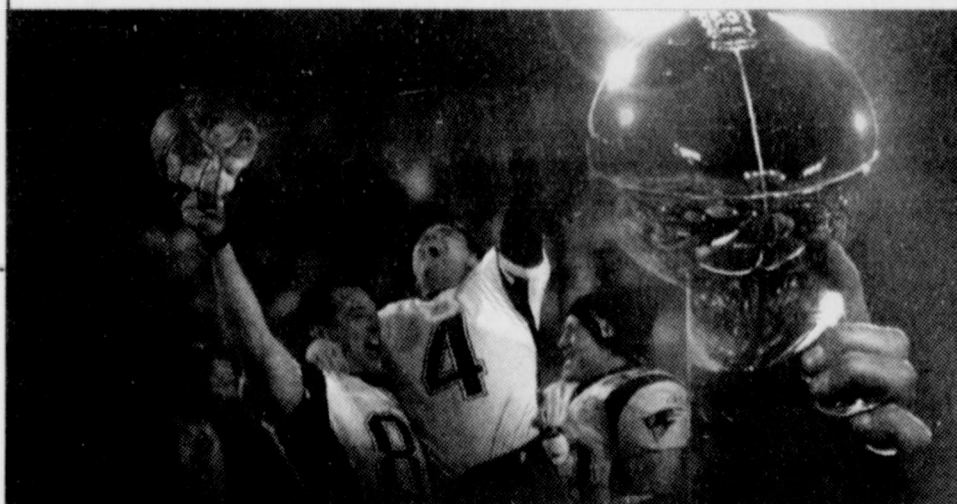
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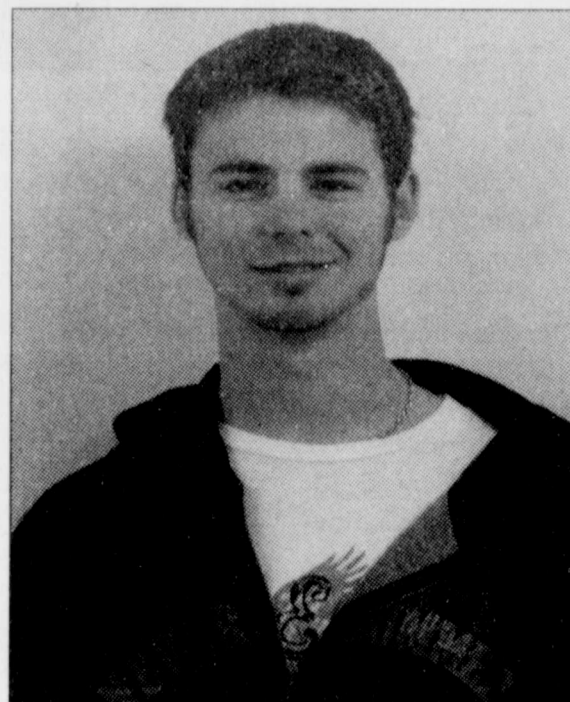
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## The Face of



## Cal Poly

Name: Tom Savage • Year: sophomore  
Hometown: Placerville • Major: landscape architecture

### Favorites

Color: Blue  
Article of clothing: Boxers, because I go everywhere in them  
Movie: "Men in Black"

### If You Could ...

— be any cartoon character which would you be and why?  
Bart Simpson, because he doesn't care but he gets his point across.

### Either/or...

Summer or winter: Winter  
Blondes or brunettes: Blondes tease but brunettes please  
Coke or Pepsi: Coke  
Boxers or briefs: Yes

### Other

Shout out: "To all the larkies and the 2-hundo crew."

Most over-used phrase:  
"Anywhooooo"

What is your one true goal in life?  
To not be rich and to not be poor, but be well-off with a family.

## WINTER 2006 EVENTS

asi recreational sports

### JANUARY

new! 27

POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

29

IM KICKBALL  
TOURNAMENT

### FEBRUARY

4&5

IM FLAG FOOTBALL  
TOURNAMENT

10

IM WHIFFLEBALL  
TOURNAMENT

14

FREE VALENTINE'S  
DAY FITNESS  
CLASSES

15

IM BOWLING  
TOURNAMENT

24

IM TABLE TENNIS  
TOURNAMENT

### MARCH

new! 2

DUSK 'TILL DAWN

8

IM DODGEBALL  
TOURNAMENT

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## State briefs

**SACRAMENTO (AP)** — A California National Guard battalion returned home after 17 months in Iraq.

The Modesto-based 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment saw some of the heaviest action of the war. About 100 members were injured and 17 killed.

...

**SAN LUIS OBISPO (AP)** — An estimated 50,000 cycling fans are expected to descend on the city for the Tour of California bicycle race on the eve of the annual Mardi Gras festivities, another big tourist draw that has a rowdy past.

The city is extending a hearty welcome to fans of the Los Angeles-to-San Francisco bike race Tour of California, but Mardi Gras revelers are getting a different message — stay away.

The bike race hits town Feb. 23 and Feb. 24, the Thursday and Friday before the Mardi Gras' big night on Saturday.

...

**GARDEN GROVE (AP)** — An 11th-grader was arrested after he allegedly downloaded an aerial photograph of Garden Grove High School and marked it "bomb destination."

The 17-year-old student showed the photo to friends on Friday night and rumors of a bomb threat circulated during the three-day Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, police Lt. Mike Handfield said.

## Couple sentenced to prison in chili finger case

Kim Curtis  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SAN JOSE** — A couple who planted a severed finger in a bowl of Wendy's chili in a scheme to extort money from the fast-food chain were sentenced Wednesday to prison terms of at least nine years.

Anna Ayala, 40, who said she bit into the digit, was sentenced to nine years. Her husband, Jaime Plascencia, 44, who obtained the finger from a co-worker who lost it in a workplace accident, was sentenced to more than 12 years.

"Greed and avarice overtook this couple," said Superior Court Judge Edward Davila, adding that the pair had "lost their moral compass."

The two pleaded guilty in September to conspiracy to file a false insurance claim and attempted grand theft with damages exceeding \$2.5 million.

In a tearful plea for leniency, Ayala apologized to the courtroom gallery and said the scheme was "a moment of poor judgment."

She said she retched March 22 after biting into the fingertip while dining with her family at a Wendy's in San Jose.

Forensic tests later showed Ayala never chomped down on the finger, but she described the incident to television news crews.

"There's no words to describe what I felt. It's sick, it's disgusting," she said in a clip played before sentencing. "Just knowing there was a human remain in my mouth is tearing me apart inside."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Anna Ayala, 41, is escorted into a Santa Clara County Superior Court in San Jose on Wednesday for a sentencing hearing.**

Although authorities suspected a hoax — in part because the finger was not cooked — word of the stomach-turning find quickly spread around the world. The Dublin, Ohio-based fast food chain claimed it lost \$2.5 million in sales because of the bad publicity, and dozens of workers at the company's Northern California franchises were laid off.

Denny Lynch, Wendy's senior vice president, asked the judge to send a message that "consumer fraud is a serious crime that demands a severe penalty."

The sentencing followed a 90-minute hearing in which several Wendy's employees testified, including the man who made the chili and the cashier who helped Ayala on the

day she made the claim.

"I felt so bad for the fear of what people would think of me," said Hector Pineda, who made the chili and initially came under suspicion. "We are the ones that have suffered."

No Wendy's employee was missing a digit at the San Jose restaurant, and no chili suppliers reported finger injuries at their plants.

In April, Ayala was arrested at her suburban Las Vegas home. Investigators found a pattern of legal claims she brought against businesses in her name or for her children.

A lengthy search for the finger's owner eventually pointed to one of Plascencia's co-workers, who lost it in an accident at the paving company where they worked, police said.

## Animals not mistreated at Jackson's ranch

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS OLIVOS** — Animals are not being mistreated at Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch, federal officials have concluded.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture sent an inspector to the 2,600-acre ranch in Central California last month in response to a complaint from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. PETA based its complaint on European tabloid reports that animals are being kept in substandard conditions.

"I'm unaware of any violations of the Animal Welfare Act at Neverland," Darby Holladay, a spokesman with the USDA in Washington, D.C., said Tuesday.

Brian Oxman, a lawyer for Jackson, welcomed the USDA's determination.

"That's very nice and we appreciate it," he said.

Lisa Wathne, PETA's captive exotic animals specialist, said the group did not try to confirm the tabloid reports before making its complaint.

"Because Neverland is not open to the public, it's very difficult to get information about the place," she said.

## winter job fair

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## National briefs

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Wind gusting up to 68 mph wreaked havoc for commuters across the Northeast on Wednesday, blowing debris across railroad tracks, overturning tractor-trailers and making for choppy ferry rides.

More than 275,000 homes and businesses across the region lost power, and several airports reported morning delays of an hour or more.

The wind was blamed for at least one death, a 52-year-old man, according to Sound Shore Hospital spokesman Sal Schilero in New Rochelle.

**MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)** — Sago Mine survivor Randal McCloy Jr. is breathing on his own and appears to be coming out of his coma, more than two weeks after a mine explosion that led to the deaths of 12 other miners, doctors said Wednesday. "With great hope we announce that Randy McCloy is awakening from his coma," said Dr. Julian Bailes, a neurosurgeon at West Virginia University's Ruby Memorial Hospital.

**SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)** — A comatose girl beaten with a baseball bat is responding to medical stimuli, officials said Wednesday, a day after Massachusetts' highest court ruled the state could take her off life support.

The state, which has custody, had asked that Haleigh Poutre's ventilator and feeding tube be withdrawn.

## Supreme Court dodges abortion ruling

Gina Holland  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court gave New Hampshire a chance to salvage its restrictions on abortion Wednesday, sidestepping for now an emotional subject that is likely to be revisited when a new justice joins the court.

New Hampshire's victory may be short-lived because the justices ordered a lower court to consider how to fix problems with the 2003 law requiring a parent to be told before a minor daughter ends her pregnancy.

The 9-0 decision reaffirmed that states can require parental involvement in abortion decisions and that state restrictions must have an exception to protect the mother's health. It also gave states new ammunition in defending restrictions on the procedure.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote the decision, most likely the final one of her 24-year career. O'Connor, a key swing voter at the court on abortion rights, capital punishment and other issues, is retiring and will step down soon if the Senate confirms nominee Samuel Alito.

The ruling broke little new ground. However, justices said that lower courts in addressing flaws in abortion laws do not have to take the "most blunt remedy," striking down an entire law. Instead, the justices said that other "modest" options are available.

"In the case that is before us ... the lower courts need not have invalidated the law wholesale,"

O'Connor wrote. "Only a few applications of New Hampshire's parental notification statute would present a constitutional problem."

New Hampshire is one of 44 states that require parental notice or permission before abortions on minors. The law, which says abortion providers must notify at least one parent 48 hours before performing an abortion on a minor, had been challenged by abortion clinics.

The Supreme Court agreed that the state law could make it too hard for some minors to get an abortion, because there is no special accommodation for someone who has a medical emergency.

Minnesota, Missouri, and Wyoming have abortion laws with a similar problem, O'Connor said.

The case returns to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, which had ruled that the law was unconstitutional.

Civil rights groups predicted that the appeals court would again strike down the law.

"It tells politicians that they must include protections for women's health and safety when they pass abortion laws," said Jennifer Dalven, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Douglas Kmiec, a constitutional law professor at Pepperdine University, said "the state interest in limiting abortion received something significant" in the ruling. He predicted that courts will be less likely to block entire abortion laws in the future.

New Chief Justice John Roberts had recommended the narrow res-

olution when the court heard arguments on Nov. 30. As the court's leader, he assigned the opinion to O'Connor to write.

"We do not revisit our abortion precedents today," O'Connor wrote in the opening of the decision, the court's first abortion ruling since 2000.

In that 2000 case, O'Connor was the fifth vote to throw out a Nebraska law banning a type of late-term abortion, because the law did not have an exception to protect the mother's health.

David Garrow, a Supreme Court historian at Cambridge University, said he was surprised the court "would choose to resolve this case in a way that may unintentionally have the effect of increasing the amount of future abortion litigation."

O'Connor's departure could leave the court deadlocked on how far states can go in limiting abortion, although there are five other justices who would vote to uphold Roe v. Wade.

Alito was questioned extensively last week during his Senate confirmation hearing about his views on abortion, including the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that declared abortion a fundamental constitutional right. He steadfastly refused to agree with assertions by Democrats that Roe v. Wade was "settled law."

Another major case awaiting justices is the Bush administration's appeal of a lower court ruling that struck down a federal ban on a late-term procedure that critics call "partial birth" abortion. The federal law has no health exception.

## U.S. moves against Syria's intelligence chief

Jeannine Aversa  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration acted Wednesday to financially clamp down on Syria's military intelligence chief, Assef Shawkat.

The Treasury Department ordered U.S. banks to block any assets found in the United States belonging to Shawkat. Americans also are barred from doing business with him.

The department alleged that Shawkat has played a role in furthering Syria's "support for terrorism and interference in the sovereignty of Lebanon."

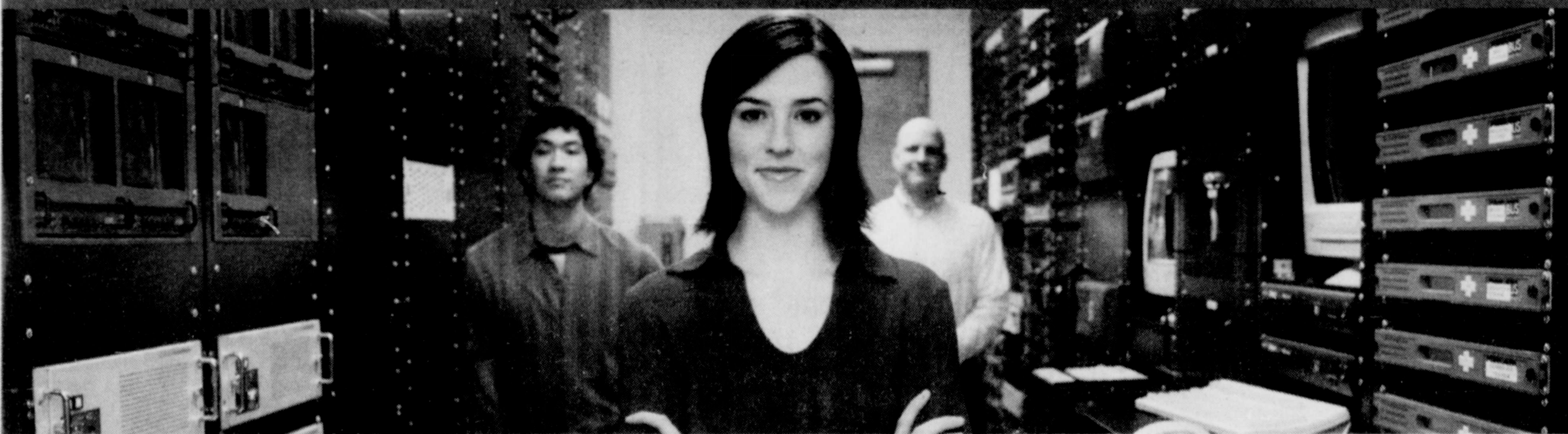
"Syria continues to be out of step with the direction the rest of the Middle East is headed," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said. "Today's action is a significant signal that those like Mr. Shawkat who support Syrian terrorism will be held to account."

It marked the United States' latest action to turn up the heat on Syria.

In June, the department moved to block the assets of Syria's interior minister, Ghazi Kanaan, and its chief of military intelligence for Lebanon, Rustum Ghazali.

The power for the department to take the action stems from a May, 11, 2004, executive order by President Bush.

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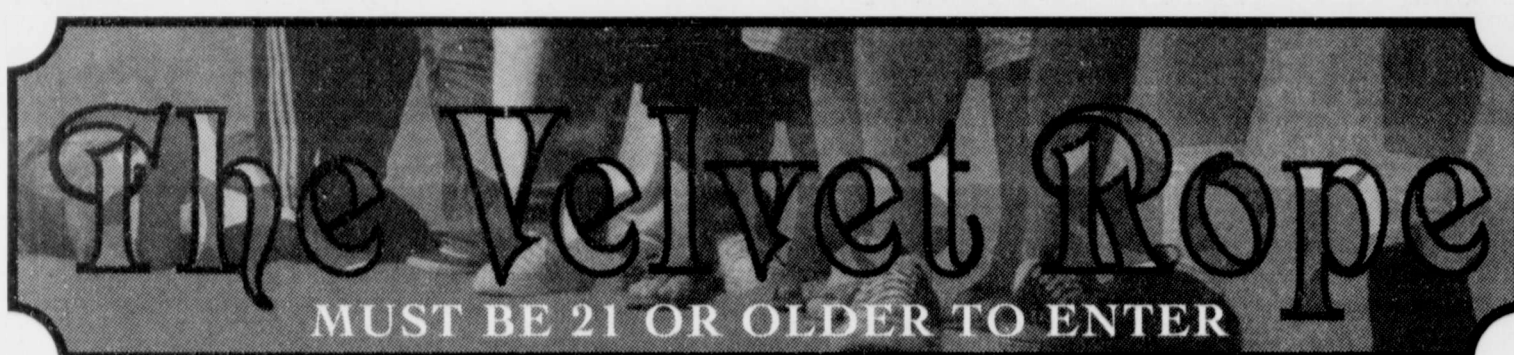
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## I'm old enough to drink, seriously

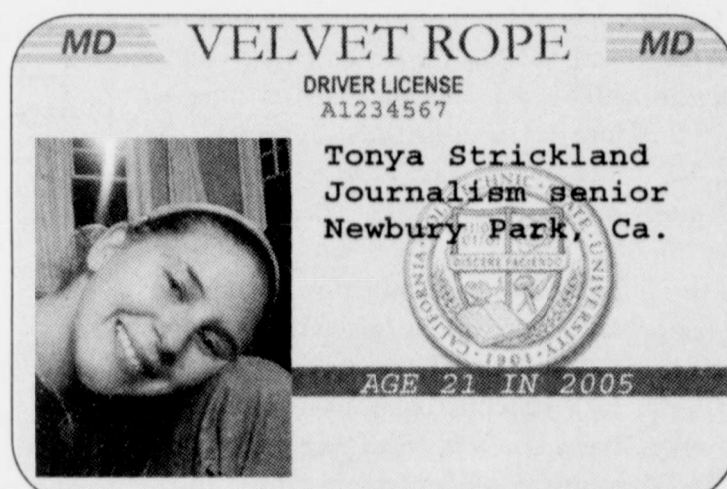
I'll admit it, I'm forgetful.

I've misplaced my car keys within 20 minutes of a midterm and have left my glasses on the bathroom sink only to bitterly realize it as I'm driving on the freeway and can't quite make out traffic signs.

Nothing is more annoying, however, than when I forget my ID in an attempt to purchase alcohol. It's shameful really, knowing I have the proof to finally walk into a store and come out with a six-pack of Hefeweizen as a respectable of-age adult, but can't because I'm not prepared.

Verifiable 21-year-olds don't have a chance in this town without that piece of plastic.

After all those adolescent years of sneaking around my best friend's kitchen, scrounging up margarita mix and liquor from her dad's "secret" cabinet and wincing as we sipped our makeshift bar drinks on her linoleum floor at 3 a.m., I still can't purchase a classier drink



because my stupid ID isn't in my wallet. If it wasn't an inanimate object it would be laughing at me — I know it.

Local clerks at grocery stores and bars are steadfast in practicing strict alcohol purchasing policies, such as "Anyone who looks like they are under 35 will be carded" or "Everyone in the group must show ID." They are unforgiving when I scramble to find my ID, promising them that I had it a second ago.

I can still hear the grocer's firm rejection at San Luis Obispo's Food 4 Less last year. It's their store policy to deny an entire group of customers their purchase of alcohol,

even if the alcohol is just for one member of the group, if everyone doesn't prove to be at least 21-years-old.

My roommate's beer on the conveyor belt was unrelated to my innocent purchase of peach oatmeal and toilet paper. However, since we were splitting the bill and standing next to each other the relation was clear: I was in a group purchasing alcohol. Surprised but understanding, I took out my wallet to show my ID to allow us to be on our merry way, but I was shocked to find that my ID wasn't there.

Needless to say, we left Food4Less empty-handed.

Customer forgetfulness isn't the fault of store clerks by any means, as underage drinking is a significant issue in a college town — I understand that. What I don't understand is why I continue to find myself in these predicaments. Unless I can find a reminder method just short of stapling my ID to my arm, I suppose I'll have to live and learn.

## Book causes a million little whiners

Jeremy Patterson  
THE POLY POST (CAL POLY-POMONA)

POMONA, Calif. — Legions of Oprah Winfrey's fans rushed to bookstores when she announced "A Million Little Pieces" as the newest must-read for her book club.

The tale, marketed as non-fiction, has recently enraged readers and sparked two class action lawsuits citing fabrication and embellishment.

### Internet publication

TheSmokingGun.com published findings from police reports and interviews on Jan. 8 scrutinizing author James Frey's claim that he was blamed for the deaths of two girls.

Such claims were countered by the parents of one of the girls who said they never even knew of Frey.

Other possible embellishments include a root canal without anesthesia and a fist-fight with a priest in Europe while evading bail.

Originally written as fiction, Frey had difficulty selling the manuscript to publishers. After cutting out "fictional" segments and a few rewrites, Frey sold it as a memoir with a \$50,000 advance.

I was under the impression that books should be entertaining. A sensational story is what makes it worth reading.

What pain have readers endured

by Frey's "deception?"

His story has inspired addicts to overcome their habit. Sobriety must be such a horrible thing.

Buyers of "A Million Little Pieces" are demanding a refund on their purchase. You can't expect money back on something you read!

We have all been to movies that were awful but have never asked for compensation on our bad experience.

Oprah has stuck by her decision that the book is still a great read and has a compelling narrative. Luckily for Frey, he has still retained the audience that hangs onto Oprah's every word.

We read novels and watch television that are wholly fabricated and we have always been OK with that. In the end, we don't feel we have been lied to or deceived. We have either seen a great story or not.

Memoirs are also based on perception. This is how Frey saw his life. Yes, there may have been exaggeration but more than one person will see a situation different ways.

Spare me the argument that you've been bamboozled.

The only people that have been affected by the situation would be the parents. If he cannot be tied to the deaths of the two girls then he shouldn't cash in on the families' tragedy. The family deserves damages, nobody else does.

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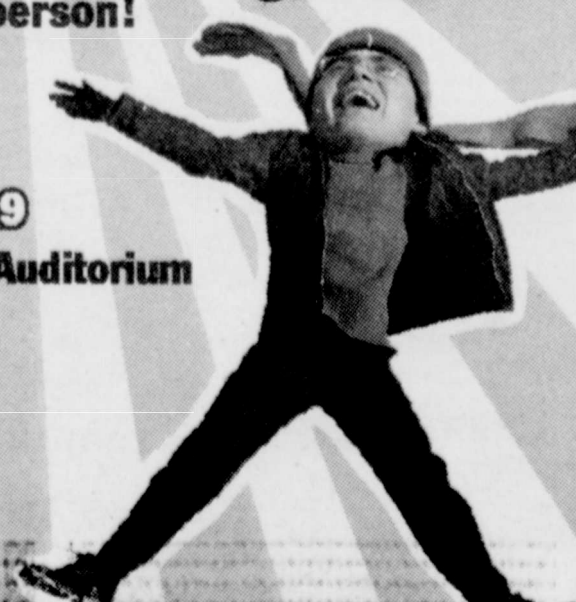
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## Lichtman

continued from page 2

Couple television series.

"Gary calls me up and says to me 'You're a funny writer. Come in, I want to talk to you about punching up jokes on The Odd Couple,'" Lichtman said.

Marshall referred Lichtman to manager Pat McQueeney, who at the time and until she died was Harrison Ford's manager.

He entered McQueeney's office a writer and left an actor, one of the most fortunate accidents of his life.

"She said, 'I'm going to need pictures,'" Lichtman said. "I knew that as a writer you don't need pictures, so she must have thought Gary Marshall sent me there as an actor."

Lichtman's a preacher of predestination.

A conductor doesn't pick up a stick and create a Ninth Symphony, a painter doesn't splash together "The Last Supper" — amazingly, Lichtman, without a single acting lesson in his life, became a master of his art.

His acting credits during a 10-year period included stints as the janitor on "Barney Miller", and parts for the "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "Baretta," "Mary Tyler Moore," "Chico and the Man" and many others.

"Being an actor is hearing and seeing things for the first time even though it's the 40th take," Lichtman said. "... I picked it right up because I always had the ability to make people laugh. I was always a funny man."

At the same time, he wrote for a number of very popular shows

including the "Bob Newhart show," "All in the Family" and "The Partridge Family."

Lichtman's law and financial background seemed lost in his phenomenal Hollywood success. But soon he'd combine his talents, and something as simple as a Christmas gift would guide him to Eastern Europe.

### Bringing work and paving paths

The last thing Lichtman will ever do is "fill hours."

Every day in the movie business is unique. It's a scene in Mexico, a sword fight in medieval times, or, often for Lichtman, a day convincing a bank to put millions of dollars into a project.

"It's being able to sit here with you," Lichtman said, "and still make money. You write a screenplay that gets produced as a movie or TV program and you're getting money forever."

After 10 years in the business, he turned to producing.

A Polish book he received for Christmas first gave him the idea of co-producing — the concept of working between two countries to

create a movie. But Poland would have nothing to do with a Polish-American project.

"They never understood it," he said. "... The concept of two countries getting together to do a film, it was unheard of at the time."

**Being an actor is hearing and seeing things for the first time even though it's the 40th take ... I picked it right up because I always had the ability to make people laugh. I was always a funny man.**

The breakthrough came when a republic of the former Yugoslavia asked him to produce a World War II film. Los Angeles investors and an American cast combined to work with Yugoslavia to create "The Courageous" in 1980 — Lichtman's first production.

But it's when talking about his second production, "Transylvania 6-5000," that Lichtman starts to really reel.

He recalls taxes and law like a guy remembers time spent in jail, but movie-talk brings him to life, an instant catalyst to a charming storyteller.

Lichtman's arms begin to move again — as if he's already conducting his seminar he hopes to create on the Central Coast — his words speed up

and his face enlivens. Even the financial aspect of movies sounds like a car chase down an open road, a Western duel, or a ride with Attila the Hun.

Lichtman begins to describe completion bonds, cash-flow charts, bond companies and all the facets of pre-production like an artist describes a favorite painting.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Lichtman says.

### The Big One

"Transylvania 6-5000" originally was set to star Tom Hanks, but New World Production Co. waited until Mace Neufeld — producer of the Tom Clancy series — was on board before shooting. Hanks was already a star and unavailable.

Lichtman, producing the financial aspect, again co-produced the film in Yugoslavia using a \$1 million commitment from Dow Chemical. The film went platinum, it jumpstarted the careers of Jeff Goldblum, Michael Richards, and Geena Davis, and it led Lichtman on to a litany of other projects.

As Yugoslavia's presence in Los Angeles, Lichtman would produce 30 feature films, including "Winds of War," "War and Remembrance," "Sophie's Choice" and "Dirty Dozen."

Lichtman most recently produced "The New Adventures of Robin Hood" in Lithuania and acted as character Barkley in 27 of the 52 episodes.

And all the while, the love of his life, Terry, was running her own successful agency in Los Angeles.

Just in the past year, life talked to

both Lichtmans — and they moved to Los Osos.

### The ultimate movie tag-team

Terry Lichtman lights up just like her husband when recalling her time in Hollywood.

You get the idea that dinner with the Lichtmans is like walking in on a movie convention.

In 27 years as founder of the Terry Lichtman Company, Terry represented actors Sharon Lawrence ("NYPD Blue"), Stephen Furst ("Animal House"), Nicole Sullivan ("MAD TV"), Kathy Griffin ("Suddenly Susan") and John O'Hurley ("Seinfeld"). Recently, she was added to the three-person jury for the selection of the winners in this year's Film Festival in March. Paul Lichtman's only son, Jordan, is, ironically enough, a lawyer. But Lichtman is quick to point out that he recently optioned a movie script.

### A Central Coast project

Once again, excitement pulses through Lichtman. The idea of teaching his wealth of knowledge makes him something like a five-year-old finding a candy store.

"What I'd like to do, I would like to put together something up here," Lichtman says. "An interactive seminar, basically 'Let's Make a Movie 101.'"

Lichtman hopes to find a younger student base for his seminar. For now, it's just a dream in Lichtman's head — but that's proved to be quite a powerful thing.

Besides, if it's meant to be, it's meant to be.

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# Musician sends 'greetings' to listeners

It may be lofty, but Sufjan Stevens uses a variety of instruments that are sure to please the ears of everyone

**Gino Macaluso**  
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Oh Boy! How the world seems to be taking to this man — from music snobs to hipsters; musicians to wannabes; Christians to heathens; Heartland Americans to urbanites; punks to emos; creamos to extremeos and club-Goers. Or, to put it simply: Everyone.

Just about anyone with ears has heard this man soothe their iPod right out of the dredges of simplistic Indie Rock and Punk and has had a mini, if not colossal, crush on Sufjan Stevens.

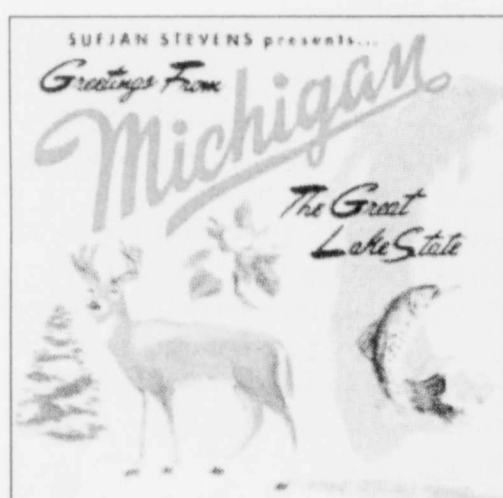
Why not? I mean why the hell not? He has come up with a original sound and possesses the talent to boot. On 2003's "Greetings from Michigan: The Great Lake State," Stevens' third album, and first to twist panties and jockstraps worldwide has created a sound that we really

haven't heard before. I tend to think of this music as Blissful Prog/Folk.

This original sound I speak of in jest is, in fact, a dynamic force to be reckoned with. Banjo, various types of keyboards, woodwinds, guitars and an eclectic array of percussion find their way onto this unique album. The arrangements that Sufjan creates are complicated yet delicate, rendering the antiquity of a fabbrache egg. Somehow he has managed to combine both the "rural" and the "rustic" into a beautiful marriage that moves to an abnormally blissful beat.

Certain tracks define his achievement to a T. These ultra-progressive, beat-heavy anthems include: "All Good NaySayers, Speak Up! Or Forever Hold Your Peace!," "They

Also Mourn Who Do Not Wear Black (For The Homeless In Muskegon)" and "Detroit, Lift Up Your Weary Head! (Rebuild! Restore! Reconsider!)." Each of the aforementioned songs candidly represents Sufjan's flagship sound on the album, each resonating with a striking



COURTESY PHOTOS

Sufjan Stevens new release 'Greetings From Michigan The Great Lake State' is wooing everyone with his abnormally blissful beat.

familiarity to the others.

One negative element, however, actually exists in the discovery of Sufjan's new sound: The repetitive rhythms found amongst the tracks mentioned above. The other major criticism lies deeply rooted with the man's lisp-ridden, wimpy voice. However pleasing it may be, at times it becomes a little too dandelion in character, creating an unsettling feeling of floating through a ticklish sea of peacock

feathers (embellishing the reality of experiences for effect can be fun — try it).

An undeniably worthwhile album, born out of a really talented musician, but is it as good as the fanatics and critics say? There's a legitimate argument either way, and based upon your personal preferences (like your take on complexity, originality, heart-felt valor or disgust for wispy and wimpy dudes), your conclusion

will vary.

Important to no end is the strength of this music, and if one listens to the last track, "Vito's Ordination Song," one should understand exactly what I mean.

**TRACK PICK:**  
**No. 15,**  
**"Vito's Ordination**  
**Song."**



**RATING:**

**SMOKIN'**  
This album is *en fuego*, purchase immediately... if not sooner!

**SPICY**  
This album is *HOT*, definitely worth the money!

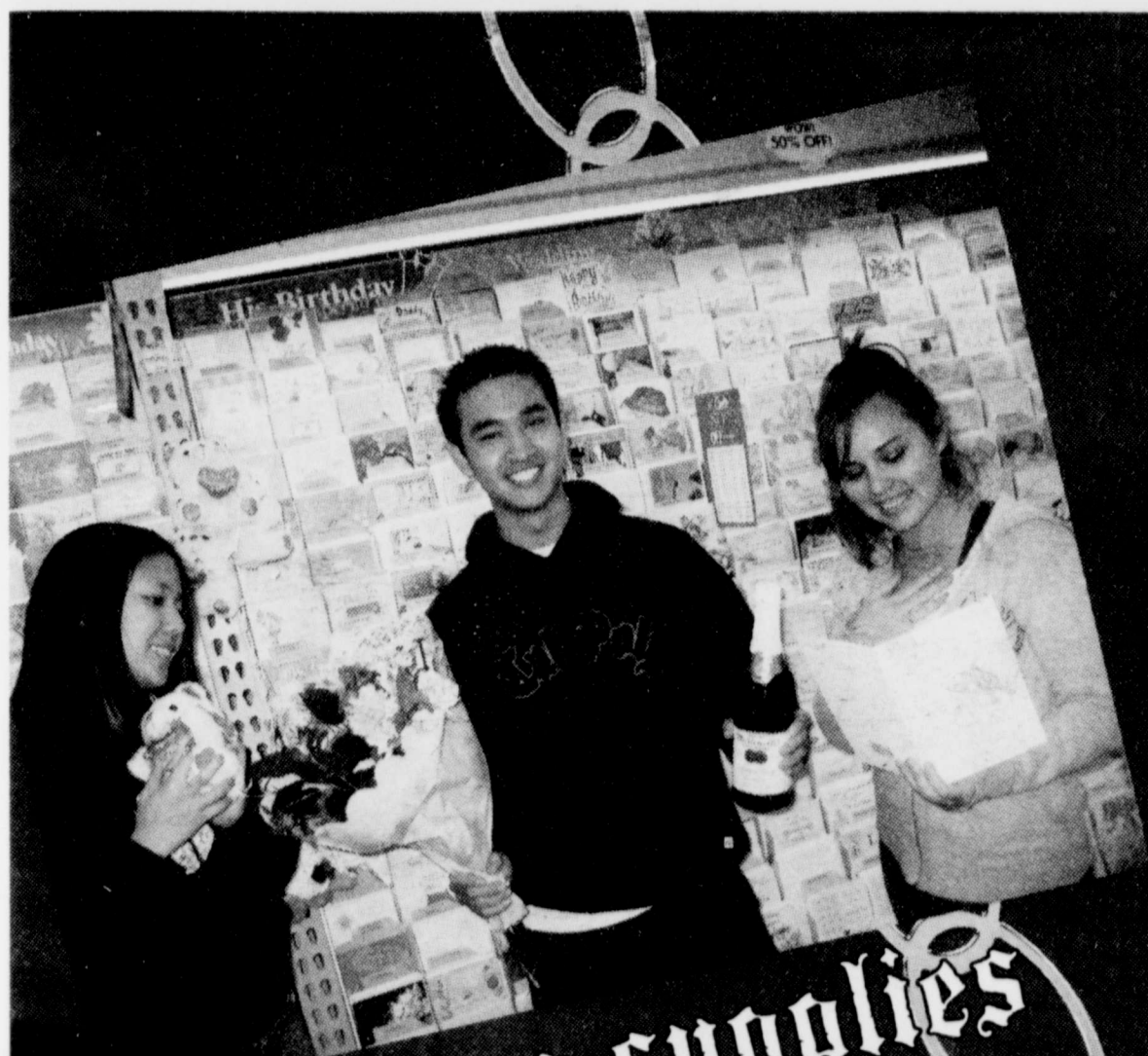
**SWEET**  
It will satisfy your new music craving.

**MILD**  
Not bad, but could use a little more spice.

**BLAND**  
Boring, not into it.

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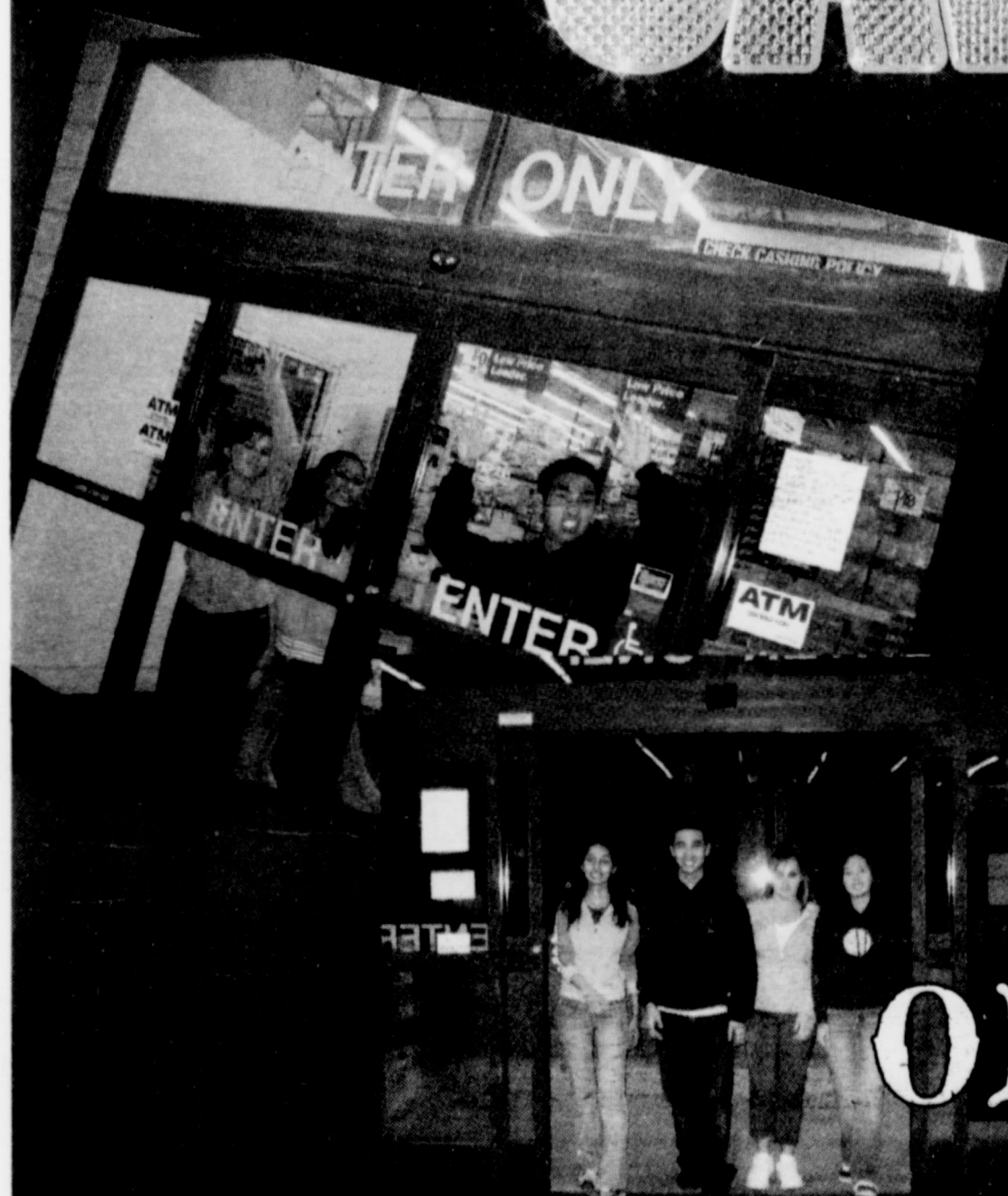
*Playa supplies*

*No time to dine?*

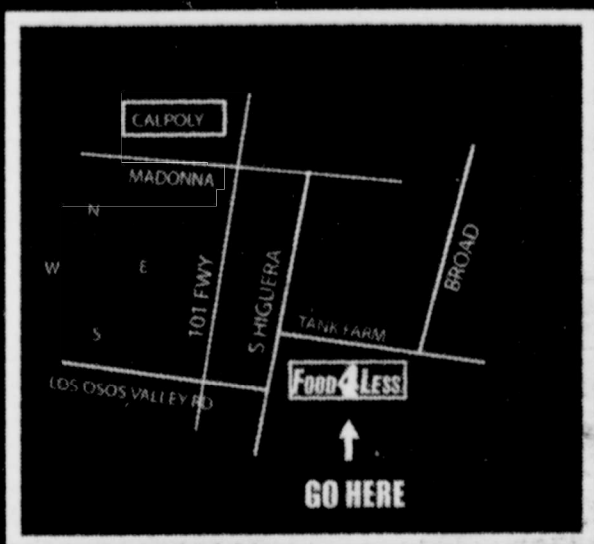


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"Hold the phone, Justin. Zach Morris is calling for you."

Thursday, January 19, 2006

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Managing editor: Kristen Oato

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**COMMENTARY**

# The dance and the sex

There's dancing, and then there's . . . dancing. There's "gliding, stepping or moving through a set series of movements, usually to music," according to the Merriam-Webster's Desk Dictionary, and then there's "an overtly sexual form of dance performed in clubs and at high school dances," according to urbandictionary.com. Since Webster has been at this dictionary thing a bit longer than the posters on a Web site, I'm venturing to guess that dancing wasn't always the (often awkward) bump and grind of drunk people when "My Humps" by the Black Eyed Peas comes on. But the relationship of sex and dancing can't be denied, and it seems that, as a culture becomes more accepting of sex in the mainstream, dancing becomes dirtier. Let's look back on the ages at the dances of history and determine which era had the hottest sex based on their dances:

**320 B.C.**

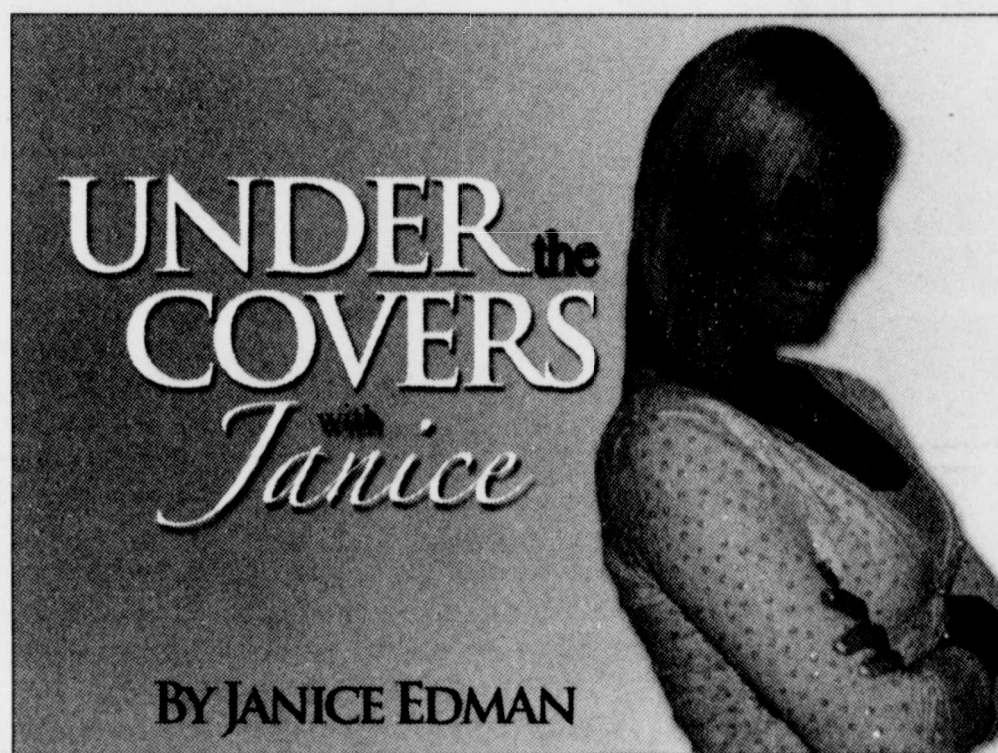
Alexander the Great and his troops storm Babylon and feast their battle-weary eyes on some luscious dancers upon their arrival, both male and female. Clad to cover their naughty bits and not much else, the dancers used their hips, butts and come-hither looks to impress their audience. Very hot.

**481 A.D.**

Although the maypole dance stemmed from a pagan ceremony of fertility, those who created it seemed to ignore the erotic point of the dance. Performers circle slowly around (get excited...) a pole with ribbons attached to it. Everyone wears clothes and it's unlikely that anyone got hot and bothered by watching or participating. Less than hot.

**1812 A.D.**

Any swoony English major with time to kill has seen the British miniseries based on Jane



The relationship of sex and dancing can't be denied, and it seems that, as a culture becomes more accepting of sex in the mainstream, dancing becomes dirtier.

Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and bemoaned the fact that even Colin Firth couldn't heat up the dancing of that era. While the ornate dresses often involved eye catching cleavage and the pants were just tight enough to see the subtle outline of a package, the dances involved only the most chaste physical contact and impressive but unsexy patterns of movement by couples across the floor. Perhaps titillating for the Bennett sisters, but pretty frigid by today's standards.

**1942**

With a bloody war raging in Europe and the South Pacific, kids in the U.S. blow off steam by swing dancing, an acrobatic dance to big band music where fellas throw their girls around and get all jazzy with themselves. As several of the throwing moves involved direct pelvic contact and the girls wore cute dresses where the undies underneath often made a flip appearance, this dancing earns a relatively sexy rating.

**Present day**

Like all of the above eras, the dancing of today has a fun name: freaking. By no coincidence, "freak" is also the most common replacement for a much dirtier word to describe sex, and that's what freaking is: a replacement for sex that the participants would openly engage in if common decency (and bouncers) were to allow it. The downside to freaking is that only people with natural rhythm can do it, which pretty much leaves out every white guy I know.

The downside for girls, of course, is that you have some random guy gyrating on you from behind without even buying you a drink first. What may have once been hot just looks bad most of the time, which demotes it to a tepid water rating.

And the winner is... Alexander and his risqué booty shakers. So the next time the urge to freak strikes you, just go rent the damn DVD and enjoy the goods with Colin Farrell.

**COLUMNIST LINEUP...**

**Monday - Guest commentaries**

It's your chance to contribute to the Op/Ed section!

by "Your name here"

**Tuesday - The Soapbox Diaries**

Jack gives his opinion on Tuesday with the intention you will respond back.

by Jack L. Ingram III

**Wednesday - Poly Point-blank**

The ASI President writes about the issues he finds important to the student body.

by Tylor Middlestadt

**Thursday - Sex columns**

• Daniel Sexplains it All (Male view)

• Under the Covers with Janice

(Female view)

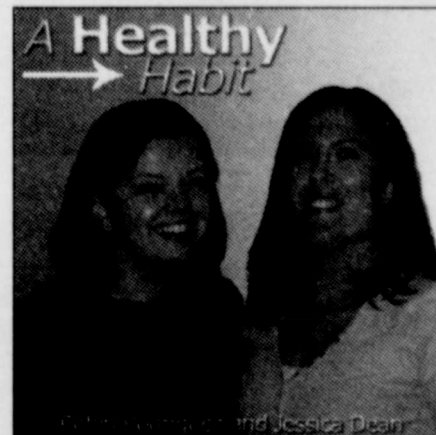
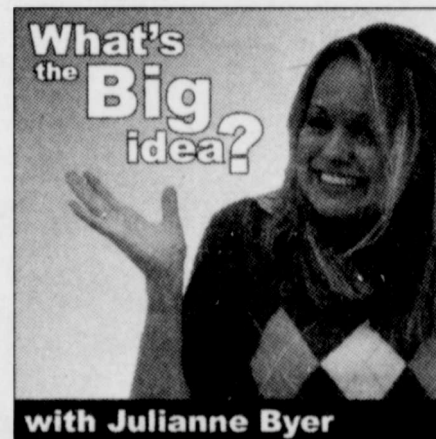
by Daniel Gingras and Janice Edman

**Friday - Two Classy Gents**

They've taken on President Baker, Scientology, love-making and Chuck Liddell. What will our humor columnists take on next ...

by Mike Matzke and Doug Bruzzone

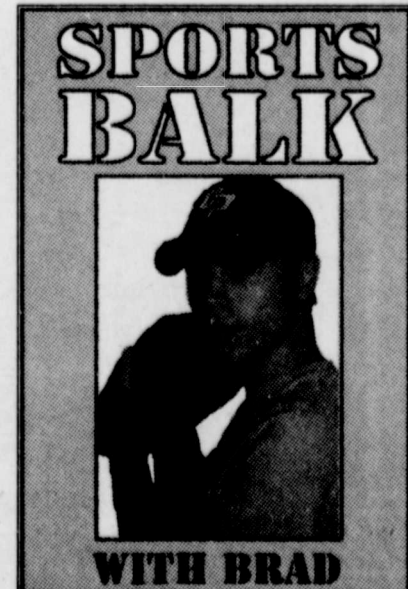
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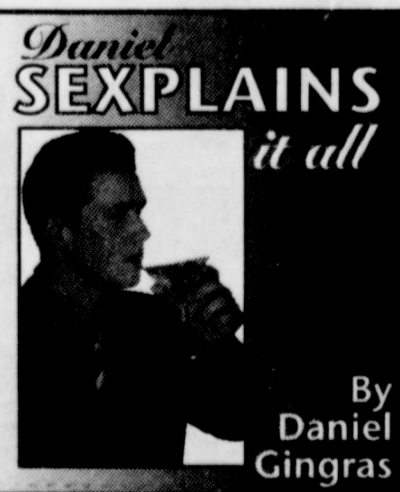
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SCREEN



an online column exclusive



What does the other sex have to say?



"We're not talking The Charleston or The Swim here, we're talking rubbing, riding, groping, grinding, so sexy it hurts, put your booty into it, FREAK-dancing."



STAFF COMMENTARY

# The fabulous life of America's college generation

Nick Coury  
MUSTANG DAILY

In 2004, Green Day's front man, Billie Joe Armstrong, was asked in a VH1 interview if he had any words of advice for today's generation. His response was to "lose the Hurley T-shirt and baggy shorts, and be a man for once."

I agree with Armstrong's message; stop letting clothes and popular culture define who you are, because it is seen far too often with this generation. Be real, be honest and most importantly, though it may sound cliché, be you, whoever that may be.

This is not to say that pop culture is evil, but do not let the pressure of it all — what celebrities say is hot or the new cool thing — overwhelm you. Spending nearly \$40 on a logo with a T-shirt under it is absolutely ridiculous. The same shirt (also made in China, like everything else we buy in America), can be found for about \$35 less at Mervyn's.

I am also quite aware that our current generation is like no other. Always preoccupied with talking on cell phones right as class gets out, or listening to their iPods instead of talking to their neighbor on the bus. I

seems people today who don't have either a phone or an iPod are shunned. For the record, I do not own an iPod; I enjoy the old ways of conversation, face-to-face.

Regardless of the fact that our culture is the digital generation, it is no excuse that

clothing chains such as Abercrombie and Fitch should be charging an exuberant amount for clothes that are considered "designer." I find it ridiculous that celebrities such as Paris Hilton spend nearly \$3,000 on a dress, only to wear it once to an awards show where they were not even nominated for anything. A good amount of the money spent on one of her dresses could be donated to hunger causes. There is no telling how much money could be given to help the less fortunate that

comprises all the dresses worn only once in the closets of celebrities all over the world. Celebrities have far too much money. Don't believe me? Watch one episode of "The Fabulous Life of" on VH1 and see for yourself.

A person has to be 18 years of age to purchase a copy of Abercrombie's catalog due to "soft-porn" imagery. I find this outrageous. A store that has to stoop to using sex to sell their product must be desperate.

Most celebrities are just pretty faces. They are just as fake as most of the breasts in Hollywood. I say most because there a handful of good-natured public figures in the world that help out whenever they can and have set up numerous organizations focused on helping those who need a friendly hand.

So next time you are shopping for a pair of jeans costing over \$100, think for a moment if that extra money could be spent on taking a friend out for coffee, or donating it to a family in New Orleans.

"Most celebrities are just pretty faces. They are just as fake as most of the breasts in Hollywood."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The real definition of slander

Hey Michael, I can't believe you spent the entire first half of your letter (Soapbox Diaries or Slander?) bragging about how you looked up "slander," but still got the definition wrong. Unreal.

Slander is the oral communication of injurious statements and libel is the written version. The key word in that is ORAL. Oral, oral, oral.

So unless Mr. Ingram flew out to the White House and gave Pres. Bush some good old fashioned oral slander, methinks your hypothesis sucks.

Jonathan Allen  
Biology senior

### Where have all the haters gone?

You were so prevalent last quarter, with your ongoing banter about the "obscene" image on the CPSALSA posters. Letters went back and forth arguing the morality of showing cleavage on a college campus. Students went as far as to say that they couldn't concentrate in class because of the pornographic image.

Well, now it's my turn. I just can't concentrate walking from class to class with the new CPSALSA ads, depicting topless men flexing their muscles.

Am I to believe that I must have impeccably chiseled abs and pecs along with a perfect bone structure to be accepted as a Salsa-er? It's not fair that they have to use male images to advertise with their club. It's against my culture to see topless men anyway.

I am calling for an all-out campus censorship of these new posters. So who's with me? Let's go on an anti-cleavage/pectoral campaign.

I mean, it's the only option we've got left to save our campus

from cleavage-chaos. Right?  
Armen Ekmekji  
Industrial technology senior

### Good coverage on women engineers

I'd like to thank the Mustang Daily for allowing an important point to come through in their Women of Engineering series— that the Men of Engineering are awesome in their treatment of the female engineers.

A big thank you goes out especially to the professors and male students of the Mechanical Engineering department. You guys rock!

Thank you for not only accepting me as an engineer, but for your help and your friendship. This shows that respect and equality are no longer ideals we are striving for, but a reality at Cal Poly. I have never felt out of place in our classes or labs. I look forward to working with you in the industry soon!

With your attitudes, female engineers will soon be as common as female doctors. To the professors, keep up the good work! You obviously care about making our school and department more diverse.

I have one suggestion to the MD. How about a series on Men in Liberal Studies? That sounds tough.

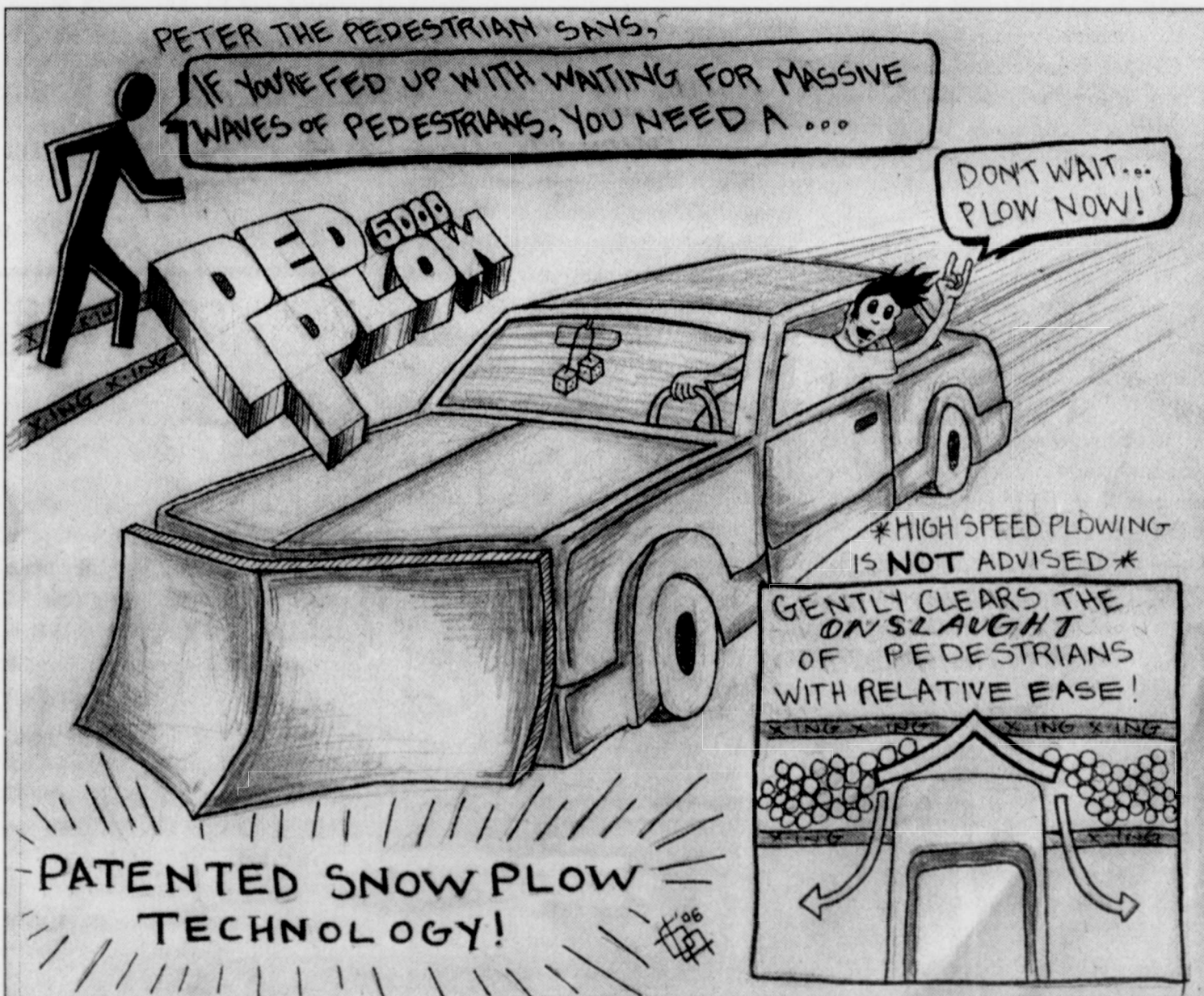
Lori Brooks  
Mechanical engineering senior

### Opinion or Journalism?

Last week I saw an article regarding a California Universal Health Care bill. I was looking forward to an objective analysis, but what I found was an advertisement.

The article told the potential value of the initiative while omitting the costs and pitfalls involved. This was worthy of the front page? For the sake of your own journalistic integrity, please keep opinion where it belongs: in the opinion section.

Mallory Tipple née Vanderbilt  
Agriculture business and wine and viticulture senior



JAMES GLEN MUSTANG DAILY

## Be Our GUEST!

The Mustang Daily\* is now accepting guest commentaries to run every Monday!

Submit an article, limited to 550 words, by e-mail to [mustangdaily@gmail.com](mailto:mustangdaily@gmail.com). Subject: Guest Commentary.



\*Editors reserve the right to edit for grammar, profanity and length.



## Research shows some employees drink on the job

Danielle Novy  
DAILY TORREADOR (TEXAS TECH)

LUBBOCK, Texas — The trend of enjoying an after-work drink has a new twist; according to research released in January, 19.2 million U.S. employees are either drinking during the workday or nursing hangovers in the workplace.

A recent study conducted by the University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions found that about 15 percent of the U.S. workforce drinks during the day or just before going to work, while more than 9 percent have come to work with lingering hangovers.

The study additionally found that those who drink on the job tend to do so infrequently. More than 60 percent of those who admitted to drinking at work reported that they mixed alcohol and work less than monthly. Meanwhile, 14 percent surveyed said they drink at work on a weekly basis.

Certain occupations lend themselves more toward alcohol use, according to the study. Jobs in management, retail, entertainment media and food preparation were just a few of the occupations that were found to go hand-in-hand with a higher likelihood of drinking at work.

Irregular work hours also increased the subject's probability of having a drink or two before clocking in.

Additionally, the research found that men are more likely to drink on the job than their female counterparts, and nursing a hangover while on the clock was most common with younger or unmarried employees.

Kathleen Weaver, the director of public communications at the University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions, said the pool of people who admitted to drinking at work or prior to work may fall into a variety of categories.

"Some people just have a drink at lunch, while other people may take a drinking break the same way people take smoking breaks," she said.

The study has garnered media

attention because it was the first to delve into the drinking tendencies of Americans while at work, she said.

Weaver said Michael Frone, the study's principal investigator, wanted to research the topic so he could provide employers with statistics they could use as an aid in launching alcohol prevention programs for their employees.

"Basically the purpose of the study was to investigate whether a problem with drinking in the work place exists," Weaver said. "Dr. Frone discovered it does exist and he wants to do further research."

The study's findings were the product of a one year research project, which surveyed nearly 3,000 employees between the ages of 18 to 65 in 2002 and 2003. Funding came from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Oscar Casas, a senior pre-med major from Las Cruces, N. M., said although he never has mixed alcohol with work, he has witnessed the effects of his co-workers drinking during their breaks.

"After their lunch shift, they come back intoxicated," he said.

Cindy Nichols, an intake coordinator at the center for drug and alcohol treatment referral, said she fears those who drink at work will put themselves and others in danger when they get behind the wheel to drive home.

Nichols said she believes drinking at or before work is a habit often embraced by alcoholics.

"They are alcoholics, and they survive on alcohol," she said.

Other tendencies paired with alcoholism include behavioral changes, Nichols said.

"Sometimes they get angry and lash out at people," she said. "Often, they have no money in their account because they've spent it all on alcohol."

Nichols said she recommends that anyone who finds himself drinking during the workday or exhibiting the aforementioned characteristics seek help immediately.

## Piracy widespread among students

Joshua Manly  
THE POLY POST (CAL POLY-POMONA)

POMONA — College students are often blamed for being the largest contributors to software piracy because file-sharing programs make it easily accessible on high-speed campus networks.

With students paying more each year for tuition, gas and textbooks, many do not have money to pay for luxuries like music, movies, video games and computer software. Coupled with the growth of technology, students can easily click a button and download whatever they want in a matter of minutes.

"It's not how much people have on their computers that matters, it is how easy it is to get. I know people who could find ten sites that would allow them to download anything they need instead of paying for it," junior computer science student Virgil Moore said.

"I know people who have something like \$3,000 worth of pirated stuff on their computer. It's not the best quality for sure, but it is free," said James Traylor, a senior civil engineering student.

Software, music, and video piracy are one of the leading white-collar crimes in the world. Today, 21 per-

cent of software in the United States is pirated, which is considered low compared to the rest of the world.

Other countries, especially in Asia and the Middle East, have software piracy rates as high as 92 percent.

In a newly-released study by the IDC, a marketing intelligence firm, it was stated that between 2004 and 2009, software jobs and taxes have the potential to grow 5 percent per year.

However, this could be hindered by the theft of intellectual property.

Cal Poly is starting to realize this trend and is making attempts to educate the students about the dangers of illegally downloading commercial software like Microsoft Windows or Microsoft Office.

"There is always a lesson of ethics taught in our computer science programs and other engineering based fields," said Dr. Debra Brum, vice president of Instructional and Information Technology.

"I think the more people know about it the better. I think the problem is societal, in that you have a generation that grew up with computers," said David Johnson, director of Judicial Affairs. "What's

happening over time is people get so comfortable with computers and are accepting of software piracy; we see the same thing with plagiarism. It is so easy that they don't see a click of a mouse being a crime, but it is stealing."

"When we find people doing things like illegal hubs, we try to get to them and tell them to knock it off. When people don't respond ... (University Housing Services) can get involved and I&IT can get involved," Johnson said.

The I&IT Department hosted a free clinic during this year's Bronco Fusion to inform students about how to protect their computer.

Director of I&IT Denny Mosier said advances in copy protection technology make software increasingly difficult to obtain illegally.

"I think that it's harder now to do it, you know with Microsoft Word patches and they want you to register it online," Mosier said. "They want you to keep up with the security and you can't because you have a copy. You can get Microsoft Professional for just \$79 — the price of a textbook — and the bookstore is really trying to get things at student prices."

## Stanford volunteers plant Calif. native species

Jenny Allen  
THE STANFORD DAILY (STANFORD)

STANFORD — Though they aren't pulling rabbits out of hats, Stanford students are nevertheless practicing magic — in an ecological sense. Each weekend in January, local non-profit organization Magic Inc. will organize volunteers to plant California native bunch grass and California native oak seedlings on the Stanford campus. Through various activities, Magic Inc. teaches people about ecology to "clarify values, improve health, increase cooperation and steward the environment," its Web site said.

More than 40 people volunteered during the first two weekends in January. Field work sessions have been from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and either 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The work is part of Magic's ongoing habitat management program for Stanford's open spaces, primarily the arboretum — the area between central campus and El Camino Real — and the foothills. Thousands of Stanford students, faculty and staff have volunteered on the project over the past 25 years.

The purpose of Magic's habitat stewardship is to enhance the ecological integrity of the campus

landscape, to demonstrate the benefits of native plants in urban and suburban settings and to provide hands-on opportunities for people to learn about ecology and care for the natural environment.

According to Magic fellow David Schrom, 2006 is the second year of large-scale grass plantings and the 26th year of oak plantings. By the end of January, Magic plans to have planted 30,000 grasses, for a two-year total of 80,000, and 50 oaks, for a 25-year total of 2,500.

"Volunteering with Magic is a fun way to be out-of-doors, work with friends and get some exercise while contributing to the ecological integrity of the campus environment," Schrom said. "It's a way to take care of your temporary home and to develop more of a sense of place. By participating in this project, students contribute to providing a very visible — and likely to be emulated since Stanford is highly regarded — demonstration of ecologically sensitive landscape design and maintenance."

More than 30 years ago, while running in Stanford's foothills, Schrom noted that oaks were declining, and young oaks were scarce.

"I realized that the landscape I so much appreciated was changing and wondered why and whether I might act to preserve and protect the qualities that I valued," Schrom said.

Magic plans to plant an additional 10,000 bunch grass plugs and 50 native California oaks during the next two weekends in January. The organization's habitat stewardship activities continue throughout the year to care for previously planted trees and assist them in becoming established. Volunteers are always needed.



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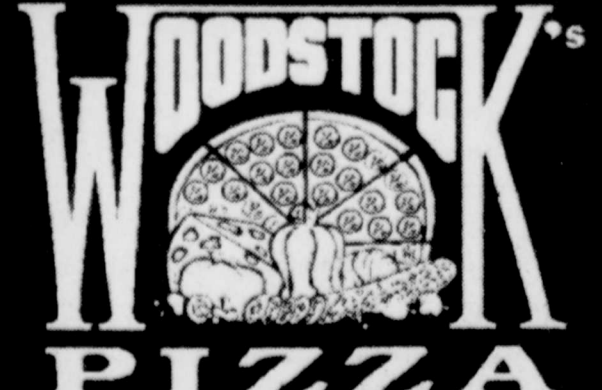
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## International briefs

**PARIS (AP)** — Europe, backed by the United States, on Wednesday rejected Iran's request for talks on its nuclear program, cranking up international pressure on Tehran to suspend uranium enrichment.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said "there's not much to talk about" until Iran halts nuclear activity. But Iran's president accused the West of acting like the "lord of the world" in denying his country the peaceful use of the atom.

The quick dismissal of Iran's request for a ministerial-level meeting with French, British and German negotiators focused attention on the next step: the U.S. and European push to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose economic and political sanctions.

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)** — Pakistani intelligence agents hunted Wednesday for the graves of four al-Qaida militants believed killed in an airstrike near the Afghan border — including one authorities suspect was a high-ranking al-Qaida figure. ABC News reported that a master bomb maker and chemical weapons expert for al-Qaida was killed in the attack on the village of Damadola last week. He was identified as Midhat Mursi, also known as Abu Khabab al-Masri, who ran an al-Qaida training camp and has a \$5 million reward on his head.

**TOKYO (AP)** — Panic trading spurred by a widening criminal investigation of a popular Internet startup forced the Tokyo Stock Exchange to shut down 20 minutes early Wednesday as share prices plunged for a second day.

It was the first time trading had to end early because the market's computers couldn't handle a surge of transactions.

The benchmark for the Tokyo exchange slid 2.9 percent Wednesday. The Nikkei 225 index dropped 464.77 points, its biggest one-day drop since May 10, 2004.

**OTTAWA (AP)** — Critical shortages of doctors, nurses and other medical staff mean the Canadian army and its allies in Afghanistan are being forced to rely on each other in emergencies like Sunday's suicide bomb attack, Forces doctors say.

Canada's military has a 35 percent shortfall in deployable doctors and the problem is growing as it begins its most dangerous Afghan mission yet, the doctor in charge of recruiting and retaining the Forces' medical staff said Wednesday.

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Pope Benedict XVI said Wednesday he will publish his first encyclical on the different aspects of God's love next week, adding it was "providential" the text would be released after a period of prayer for unifying all Christians.

# Surge in bloodshed across Iraq kills scores of Iraqis and two American civilians

Robert H. Reid  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Insurgents carried out two dramatic ambushes Wednesday, killing 11 people including two American civilians in a roadside bombing in Basra and an attack on an Iraqi convoy in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Iraqi officials expressed hope that American hostage Jill Carroll would eventually be released, and kidnappers freed the sister of Iraq's Interior Minister after holding her hostage for two weeks.

The ambushes, in which gunmen also seized two Kenyan engineers, were part of a surge in violence that left scores of Iraqis dead across the country Wednesday.

In the most gruesome development, police said militants used this week's downing of a U.S. helicopter to carve out a killing field north of Baghdad, slaying more than 40 people on remote roads that Iraqis were forced to use after American troops cordoned off the crash zone.

Thirty people were dragged from their cars Wednesday at crude checkpoints erected on unpaved roads and shot dead execution-style in farming areas in Nibaei, a town near Dujail, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, said police Lt. Qahtan al-Hashmawi.

Since Monday's crash of a U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopter that killed its two pilots near Mishahda, 25 miles north of Baghdad, American and Iraqi forces cordoned off a large section of the



Iraqi soldiers inspect the wreckage of a suicide bomb near the home of a prominent Shiite political leader on Wednesday in Baghdad, Iraq.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

main road near Dujail, police and eyewitnesses said.

More than a dozen other Iraqis died Wednesday in attacks linked to the insurgency.

The increased violence came as authorities prepare to announce the results this week of the Dec. 15 election. U.S. and Iraqi officials expect more attacks as religious and ethnic groups jockey for power in the new government.

In the boldest attack, gunmen opened fire on a convoy of the mobile telephone company Iraqna, killing six security guards and three drivers in the Nafaq al-Shurta district of western Baghdad.

Naguib Sawiris, chairman of the Egyptian communications firm that controls Iraqna, said the attackers

seized the two Kenyans.

The two American civilians were killed in a roadside bombing in the southern city of Basra. They worked for the Texas-based security company DynCorp and were training Iraqi police. A third American was seriously wounded in the attack, the U.S. Embassy said.

An Associated Press photographer at the scene said two four-wheel-drive vehicles were targeted. The area was surrounded by heavily armed British forces, whose main base in Iraq is in Basra.

The killings occurred as a joint American-Iraqi investigation was under way to find Carroll, the 28-year-old American journalist who was abducted Jan. 7 in Baghdad. The freelance reporter for The

Christian Science Monitor was seen in a video aired Tuesday by Al-Jazeera television.

Al-Jazeera said the silent 20-second video included a threat to kill Carroll in 72 hours unless U.S. authorities release all women detainees in Iraq. U.S. officials said eight women were in security detention and none had been freed as of Wednesday night.

Nevertheless, Maj. Gen. Hussein Kamal, a deputy interior minister, spoke hopefully about prospects for Carroll's release.

"Efforts are continuing to find the American journalist," he said. "We cannot say more because of the sensitivity of the matter, but God willing, the end will be positive."

## Donors pledge \$1.9 billion to fight bird flu

Margie Mason  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BEIJING** — After a year of unprecedented appeals for money to cope with the Asian tsunami and the South Asia earthquake, the world dug deeper Wednesday, pledging \$1.9 billion to fight bird flu and prepare for a potential pandemic.

The United States alone came up with \$334 million that will largely be used to help poor countries in Southeast Asia, such as Vietnam and Indonesia, where the H5N1 bird flu virus is endemic. The European Union pledged another \$261 million, responding with a renewed sense of urgency after the disease killed four children in Turkey.

As the two-day donors conference wrapped up in Beijing, participants were again reminded of the risk as China reported its sixth human death.

"Nobody's wishing for more tragedies or more crises, but if the world has a better ability to respond to those, I think that's a good thing," said Jim Adams, head of the World Bank's bird flu task force, who said the \$1.9 billion in pledges over three years was a proactive step for the international aid community, which often responds to major disasters after they happen.

The World Bank had estimated \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion would be needed to prepare for a potential global pandemic and to fight bird flu, which has killed or forced the slaughter

of an estimated 140 million domestic birds since it began ravaging poultry stocks across Asia in late 2003. The virus has also jumped from poultry to people, killing at least 79 people in east Asia and Turkey.

Experts worry the virus could mutate into a form easily spread from person to person, possibly sparking a global pandemic that kills millions. So far, human cases have been traced to contact with sick birds.

David Nabarro, the U.N. coordinator on avian and human influenza, said the international outpouring of support at the conference attended by more than 100 countries showed a determination to try to avert disaster.

"What we've seen today is that the world really does care and wants to respond effectively to the threat of avian influenza and a possible human pandemic," he said, describing the response as "quite extraordinary."

About \$1 billion of the money came in the form of grants, while the other \$900 million will be distributed as loans — including \$500 million from the World Bank.

The U.S. pledge, the most of any single country, was mostly in the form of grants and technical assistance. Billions more will be spent over the next three years to develop vaccines and additional funding will come later for the regional stockpiling of antiviral drugs, said Nancy Powell, U.S. senior coordinator for avian influenza and infectious diseases.

About \$280 million was newly

approved by Congress, while the remainder was moved from existing programs, including \$31.3 million originally set aside for the tsunami. Powell said most of the U.S. funding would be focused on the hardest-hit countries in Southeast Asia.

"It certainly puts a responsibility, that we've taken very seriously, to be among the leaders in the effort," she said. "It will be used in coordination with the other donors and with the technical agencies."

Large chunks of the total \$1.9 billion will go to poor countries where the H5N1 virus poses the greatest threat, including improving surveillance, rapid response and containment mechanisms should a pandemic flu strain emerge within

their borders.

Other money will be used for strengthening laboratories and poultry vaccination programs. The World Health Organization, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health will also receive funding.

EU Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said the EU increased its commitment to \$121 million, about \$20 million more than it announced last week. In addition, he said the 25 member states pledged a combined \$140 million.

"Never before has humankind had a window of opportunity to prepare for the event of a pandemic before it actually happens," he said.



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# Nelson says he'll vote for Alito, but others say they won't

Jesse J. Holland  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito has caused a rift among Senate Democrats, with one saying publicly he will vote for the conservative judge while others are lining up to oppose his confirmation.

Democrats Max Baucus of Montana, Barbara Mikulski of Maryland and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts all announced Wednesday they will vote against Alito, President Bush's pick to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

"He's just not right for Montana, he's just not right for America," Baucus said. Added Mikulski, "I have a lot of unanswered questions."

But Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska announced Tuesday he will support Alito, the only Democrat to do so. Nelson said he will support Alito "because of his impeccable judicial credentials, the American Bar Association's strong recommendation and his pledge that he would



Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito, left, talks with an unidentified member of the Capitol Police on his security detail, right, as he leaves the Capitol Hill office of Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla. on Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

votes Tuesday on Alito's nomination.

All 10 Republicans on the Judiciary Committee have endorsed Alito, assuring him of approval even though most of the eight committee Democrats are expected to oppose his confirmation.

Many Democrats are expected to speak against Alito's nomination when final Senate debate begins Jan. 25. "I'm not a fan of Alito," said Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

Alito met Wednesday with several Democratic senators, including Baucus, Bill Nelson of Florida and Ron Wyden of Oregon. He was meeting Thursday with Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware and new Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey. All those senators except Baucus are undecided on Alito's nomination.

Alito will also meet with Republicans John Sununu of New Hampshire and John Warner of Virginia on Thursday. Sununu is undecided, while Warner expects to vote for Alito's confirmation.

not bring a political agenda to the court."

Nelson, who is seeking re-election this fall in his Republican state, said in his statement that he has "supported more than 215 of President Bush's nominations to the

federal bench, including Chief Justice John Roberts."

Several Democrats are expected make their votes public Thursday, including Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee. Leahy and

two other committee Democrats — Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, both of Wisconsin — voted for now-Chief Justice John Roberts' confirmation.

Others plan to wait to reveal their votes after the Judiciary Committee

## New blueprint to be unveiled to bring peace to Afghanistan

Edith M. Lederer  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — International leaders will hold a conference later this month to introduce a new blueprint for bringing peace to Afghanistan and providing a better life for its people, the top U.N. envoy to Afghanistan said.

The "Compact for Afghanistan" will establish key benchmarks and timelines to meet the major challenges confronting the country over the next five years — security, good government, human rights, the rule of law and combatting the drug trade, Jean Arnault told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday.

Arnault said the compact will also provide a framework for the international community's future dealings with Afghanistan and seek to improve the delivery of aid to the Afghan people.

"It emphasizes the leadership that the Afghan state — strengthened by the democratic process that has unfolded in the past four years — can and must take," he said.

The plan will be unveiled at a Jan. 31-Feb. 1 conference in London to be co-chaired by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The gathering will be a follow-up to the December 2001 conference in Bonn, Germany that established a political process for Afghanistan after U.S. and allied Afghan forces drove out the Taliban for harboring Osama bin Laden.

That process culminated in last month's inauguration of the new Afghan National Assembly — the final formal step toward bringing a representative government to Afghanistan after a quarter century of war that claimed more than 1 million lives.

In September, the country adopted a new constitution and held national elections.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said the compact will make it easier to address security issues in the country. "The United States will be making a major pledge in support of Afghan development at that point. I think other governments will make substantial pledges, as well," he said.

Arnault said the recent surge in attacks in southern Afghanistan serves as a reminder of the magnitude of the tasks that remain to bring peace to the country.

On Monday, a suicide bomber killed 21 civilians at a wrestling match in an Afghan border town — the deadliest suicide attack since U.S.-led

forces ousted the Taliban in 2001. The assault came shortly after a bomb targeted a truck convoy of Afghan soldiers in Kandahar city, killing four people and wounding 16.

On Sunday, a suicide car bomber in the southern provincial capital killed a senior Canadian diplomat and two Afghan civilians.

The string of more than 20 suicide bombings in the past three months represents a relatively new tactic for militants in Afghanistan and has stoked fears of an escalating siege of bloody attacks like those in Iraq.

Karzai has ordered an inquiry into the most recent bombing to focus on "where the militants are getting their resources, their support and where they are coming from," spokesman Khaleeq Ahmed said Tuesday.

Afghan officials repeatedly claim that the Taliban and other militant groups have training bases in Pakistan and are receiving support from there — an accusation Islamabad denies. On Wednesday, about 1,000 Afghans protested against Pakistan in the border town where the attack occurred, chanting "Death to Pakistan."

No one has claimed responsibility, and a purported spokesman for the Taliban rebels denied involvement.

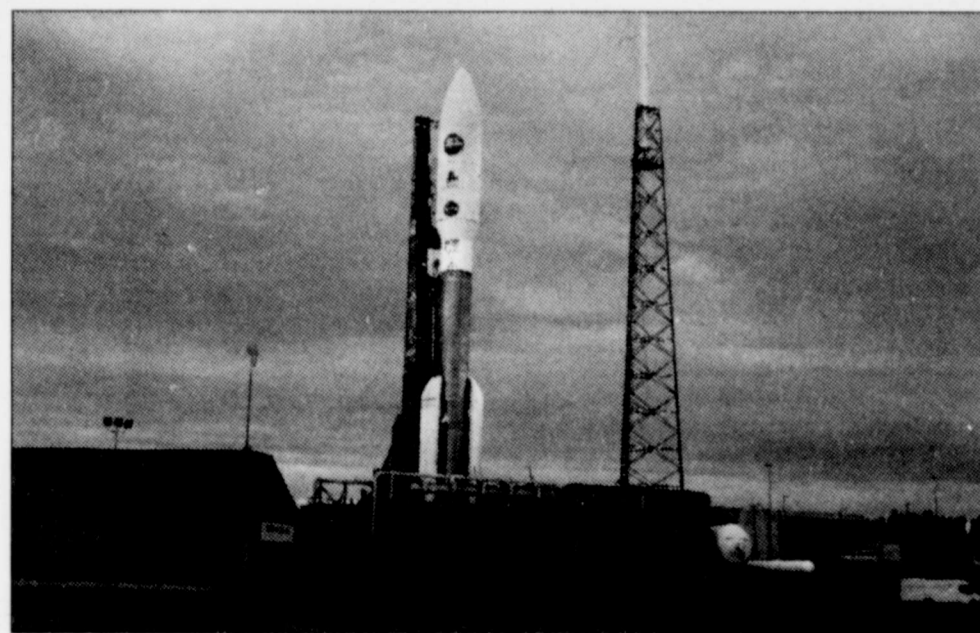
The Security Council has also condemned the recent spate of attacks.

"The members reiterated that no terrorist acts can reverse the path toward peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan, which is supported by the people and government of Afghanistan and the international community," it said in a statement.

Arnault said the attacks should not distract Afghans from the democratic process.

The Afghan people "deserve our confidence that, with undiminished assistance by the international community, they will be equally successful in the realization of the vision contained in the 'Compact of Afghanistan,'" he said.

NASA



ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Atlas V rocket that will carry the New Horizons spacecraft on a mission to the planet Pluto sits on the launch pad after the liftoff was scrubbed at the Kennedy Space Center on Wednesday.

## Launch of Pluto-bound probe delayed for second day

Mike Schneider  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — For the second day in a row Wednesday, NASA scrubbed the launch of an unmanned spacecraft on a nine-year voyage to Pluto — this time, because a storm in Maryland knocked out the power at a laboratory that will operate the probe.

NASA officials planned to make a third attempt to launch the New Horizons probe Thursday after electricity was restored to the lab.

High winds at the launch pad kept the spacecraft from lifting off Tuesday, the first day the launch window opened.

Scientists have been working 17 years on the mission, and they were unfazed by the back-to-back postponements.

"Two or three days doesn't mean a hill of beans," said Alan Stern, principal investigator for the mission.

A storm in Laurel, Md., knocked out power early Wednesday at the John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

"The air conditioning was off. The flight controllers were sitting there wiping sweat," Stern said. "If they were dealing with any spacecraft issues, which first day out of the box a lot of spacecraft have, you can't concentrate like that."

The space agency has until mid-February to send the spacecraft on its way, but a launch in January would allow the spacecraft to use Jupiter's gravity to shave five years off the 3-billion-mile trip, allowing it to arrive as early as July 2015.

The spacecraft is about the size and shape of a concert piano. It will study Pluto as well as the frozen, sunless reaches of the solar system known as the Kuiper Belt. Scientists believe that studying the region's icy, rocky objects can shed light on how the planets formed.

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# Gunn

continued from page 16

been over long ago had the Colts not taken it so far, but I can't help wondering what it would have been like to see it happen.

For sports fans the unattainable is always the goal, the pilot light to our aspirations, like landing on the moon something thought not attainable, but when grasped would have been glorious for everyone (except the team that yielded that final win).

Who is going to win the Super Bowl? I don't know, but what I do know is that I will be waiting until next year to see if something magical will happen, and hoping that I will get to see it.

Chris Gunn is a journalism senior and assistant sports editor. You can e-mail him at [cgunn@calpoly.edu](mailto:cgunn@calpoly.edu).

# Clark

continued from page 16

but had to cancel it this quarter due to the lack of blanks. Besides teaching the class, Sleeper has shaped boards on his own for four years.

The class will be back next quarter, Sleeper said, because small companies in the U.S. and overseas suppliers are filling the need. Although the problem is apparent now, it may be somewhat hyped, and could be corrected in a few, months Sleeper said.

"There are blanks out there, epoxy and polyester, people are starting to make them fast," Sleeper said.

Blanks are coming, but surfboard prices are up and they are going to stay up "just because they can," Sleeper said of surf retailers.

"There is a more positive feel in the market that boards are coming," Cowan said. He also said that manufacturers may be back to 100 percent as soon as April, but it is still up in the air.

# Wild card

continued from page 16

throwing early against a defense stacked to stop the ground game. They jumped to a 21-3 lead and won a game that wouldn't have been close at the end if not for an egregious officiating error.

Beyond that, these are teams that at the beginning of the season were expected to be there — but seeded higher.

Pittsburgh probably would have won the AFC North had Ben Roethlisberger not been banged-up during a three-game losing streak that put their playoff chances in peril. The Panthers would have won the NFC South if not for a fluky running-into-the-kicker penalty that cost them a game against Dallas.

Also remember that both are better on the road than at home (8-2 to 5-3).

"We didn't want to go through

this by choice," Pittsburgh's Hines Ward said Wednesday. "That is how it went. Last year, we were a No. 1 seed. This year, we had to win our final four games just to get here. So we've been on a playoff mentality the last four weeks of the regular season. It's win or go home, so we've gotten used to playing with pressure."

Denver coach Mike Shanahan says of the Steelers' road success:

"They've been that way for about the last five years. There's a good reason why they went into Indy and beat Indy and really had a chance to dominate the game. A couple calls here and there, and they dominate that football game."

Some people who have watched the Steelers closely through Cowher's 14 seasons also think they are playing better because less is expected from them. All five of the previous title games under Cowher were at home, and they are 1-4 in those, including a 41-27 loss to New England last year.

Fox, meanwhile, is establishing himself as a premier playoff coach and Jake Delhomme has become a premier playoff QB, 5-1 overall. He quarterbacked Carolina to a win in Philadelphia in the conference title game two years ago, and he excelled in the game he lost: the 32-29 shootout with New England in the Super Bowl.

Yes, he went undrafted coming out of college, but he's totally outplayed two inexperienced first-round picks: Eli Manning and Rex Grossman.

"Once you do something, it makes it a little easier to do it again," Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers said. "Experience plays a part on it. I'm confident in our ability to go on the road and do well because we've done it before."

So forget about those '85 Patriots, mismatched in the big game against one of the better teams of the modern era. These low seeds are legitimate.

## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

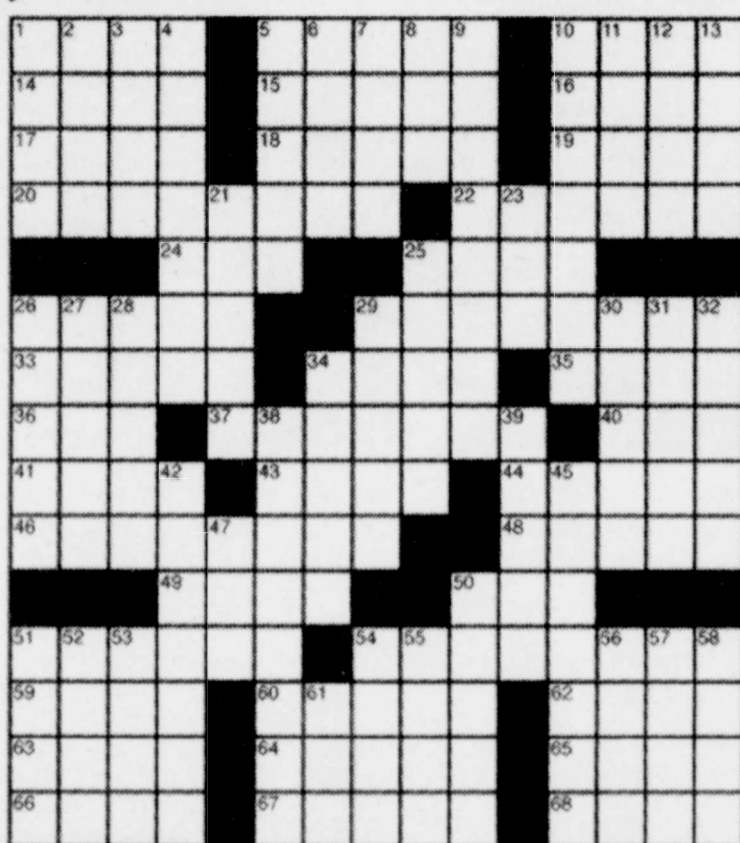
No. 1208

### ACROSS

- 1 Hate or fear follower
- 5 Accra's land
- 10 Held up
- 14 Actress Skye
- 15 Like some beans
- 16 Golf club
- 17 Pen denizens
- 18 Jumped between electrodes
- 19 Retin-A treats it
- 20 Jungle crusher
- 22 Hostile incursion
- 24 Line C, maybe, in a voting booth: Abbr.
- 25 Bullet point
- 26 Quaint contraction
- 29 All there is
- 33 Fish in a John Cleese film
- 34 Inner: Prefix
- 35 It may follow a cut
- 36 Justice Fortas
- 37 Athrob
- 40 Badge issuer, for short
- 41 Kind of crime
- 43 Court statement
- 44 Phantom's haunt
- 46 Ready to freak out, maybe
- 48 Stable parents
- 49 Pencil-and-paper game
- 50 Brain scan: Abbr.
- 51 Response to "Gracias"
- 54 Brezhnev's successor
- 59 Scads
- 60 Busey and Coleman

### DOWN

- 1 Santa
- 2 "Tell me more"
- 3 Sicilian city
- 4 Cancel
- 5 Thou
- 6 Source of a thundering sound
- 7 Chad's place
- 8 Family tree word
- 9 Ell, maybe
- 10 Moved like army ants
- 11 Bonkers
- 12 Mrs. Chaplin
- 13 Joined at the altar
- 21 Draft status?
- 23 Calif. neighbor
- 25 rubber
- 26 Mop wielders
- 27 Something to kick
- 28 Lend (listen)
- 29 Still not happy
- 30 Direct elsewhere



Puzzle by David Pringle

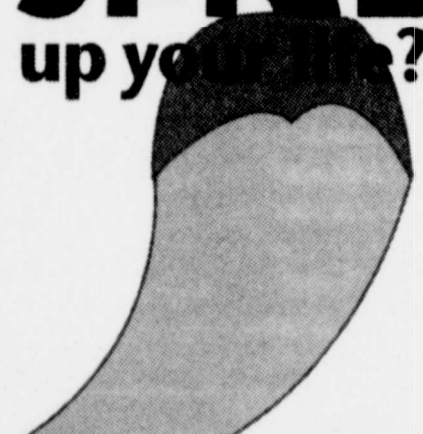
- 31 Buffalo skater
- 32 Walt Disney's middle name
- 34 Those girls, in Grenoble
- 38 Forces out of the spotlight
- 39 Stupid oaf
- 42 Gave a goofball
- 45 Asian shrines
- 47 Grounds-keeper's supply
- 50 Bygone auto
- 51 Bygone auto
- 52 Pizazz
- 53 Iditarod terminus
- 54 1981 hit film with a 5'3" lead actor
- 55 Wall St. letters
- 56 Early Briton
- 57 Old music halls
- 58 Patience, e.g.
- 61 "I'll take that as"

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, [nytimes.com/crosswords](http://nytimes.com/crosswords) (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: [nytimes.com/puzzleforum](http://nytimes.com/puzzleforum). Crosswords for young solvers: [nytimes.com/learning/xwords](http://nytimes.com/learning/xwords).

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

TAMPA SAPS CHAT  
EMAIL LIEN OILY  
NONCE IMDOINGOK  
TREK SPED TEHEE  
HESAREBEL ESP  
PONY ISM OSS  
SCRAPS GNU BILE  
YOUREABIGBOYNOW  
SENT TON SKATES  
TNT SEX SILL  
OOP SHESALADY  
SASHA CATT OBIE  
THEYREOFF EDINA  
ISEE ERTE ADDER  
RODS LESE USERS

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2	1	4	7	3	8	9	6	5
8	3	6	5	9	2	4	7	1
7	8	2	6	5	3	1	4	9
1	5	9	2	4	7	6	8	3
4	6	3	8	1	9	7	5	2
5	9	1	4	8	6	3	2	7
6	2	8	3	7	1	5	9	4
3	4	7	9	2	5	8	1	6

## THE SPORTS MINI BAR

- Big Game this Saturday for the men's basketball team as they will face league opponent UC Santa Barbara at home. The Mustangs are 2-2 in league play.

- Women's basketball goes on the road to face league opponent UC Santa Barbara. The Mustangs are looking to rebound after consecutive losses to Long Beach State and UC Davis. The Mustangs are 3-1 in league play.

- Cal Poly defensive-end Chris Gocong has committed to play in the 81st Annual East/West Shrine Game. He is the second Cal Poly player to go to the game in consecutive years.

- Mustang women's track standout Danielle Ayers-Stamper recorded at meets best time of 8.23 in the 55-m hurdles event during the indoor women's "Run For a Dream" event.

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# SLO Outdoor Adventures

## Board prices on the rise

Joe Sargent  
MUSTANG DAILY

As the big wave season continues in full effect on the Central Coast, surfers out to buy themselves a new stick may be a little shocked by the prices on the racks, where surfboards are going for \$100 to \$400 more.

In December, Clark Foam, the world's largest supplier of surfboard blanks, abruptly stopped production after 40 years of business. Since then, surfboard prices have been steadily increasing.

"Most manufacturers have raised their prices \$100... but depending on the area, I have heard of a raise of \$400," Tim Cowan, the general manager of Wavelengths in Morro Bay said.

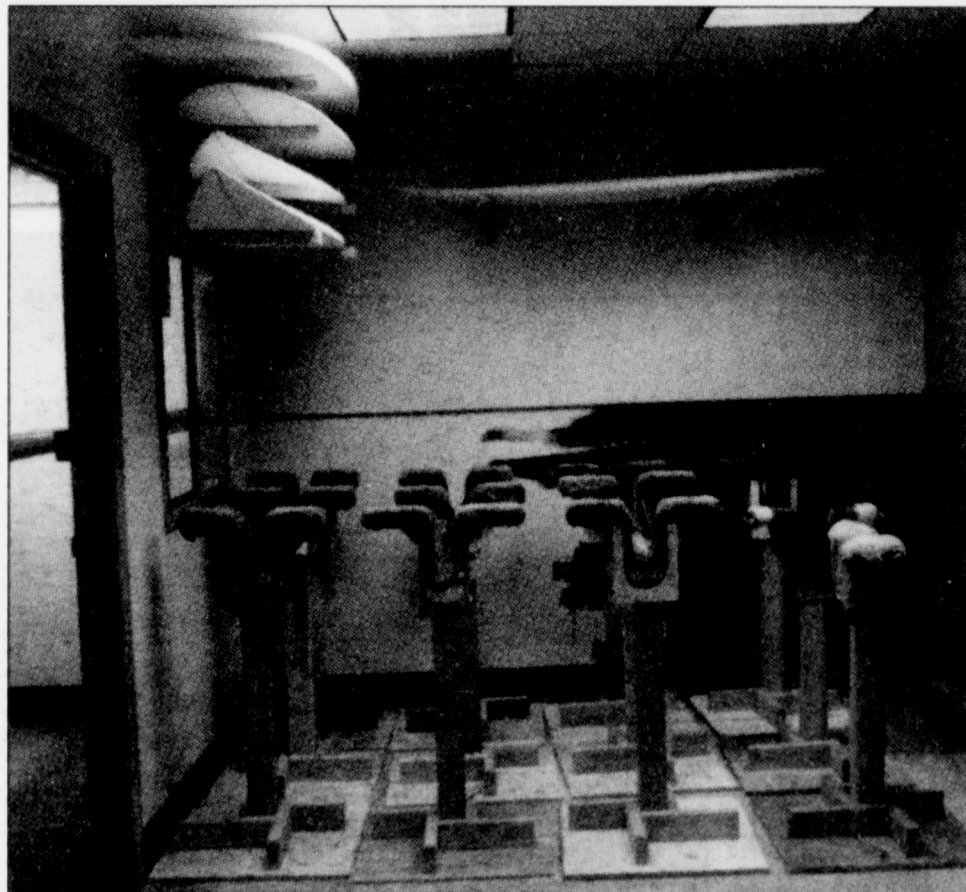
Clark Foam, a \$175 to \$200 mil-

lion a year company, that produced an estimated 90 percent of the foam blanks for the surf industry, announced in December that they would no longer be distributing blanks.

Styrofoam blanks are the building block of a surfboard. It is the basic material that shapers carve away at and then glass over to create the finished product. Since Clark Foam supplied the majority of the world's blanks, but now many board makers, especially smaller companies, are left to find a new supply.

Gordon Clark, the man behind Clark Foam, released a seven-page fax to surfboard manufacturers on Dec. 5, saying that production will stop for an indeterminate amount of time.

"The short version of my explanation is that the state of California,



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

**The cost and lack of availability of blank surfboard decks has forced the cancellation of the shaping class offered through the Craft Center class this quarter.**

and especially Orange County where Clark Foam is located have made it very clear they no longer want manufacturers like Clark Foam in their area," Clark said in the fax.

In the fax Clark pointed at lawsuits, fines, and even the threat of jail time by the Environmental Protection Agency, as the cause of the closure but would not divulge details.

"I would like to give a lot more details but keep in mind that I may have both fines and criminal charges pending at this time or in the future," Clark said. "Therefore I have been advised by my attorney to say as little as possible."

Since the announcement that Clark is done, prices of boards already on the racks went up everywhere anticipating a lack of supply, but the cost increase varied greatly. Where the shop is and if the shop is a manufacturer and a retailer or just a retailer affected the price change, Cowan said.

Higher prices are not the only way the lack of blanks is affecting Cal Poly, due to the dwindling supply, the Cal Poly surfboard shaping class had to be cancelled.

Tim Sleeper, an industrial engineering sophomore, used to teach the class through the craft center,

see Clark, page 15



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

**The last of the shaped blanks to be removed from the shaping room are now a hot commodity with the closure of Clark Foam.**

## Wild card Super Bowl in the mix

Dave Goldberg  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Only the 1985 New England Patriots have won three games on the road to get to the Super Bowl.

Don't put Pittsburgh and Carolina — both trying to accomplish the same feat — in a class with that bunch, which lost 46-10 to Chicago and became a footnote to history. They are legitimate contenders who ended up at the bottom of the seedings because of injuries and fluky plays, not because they lack ability.

Remember that the Steelers, the No. 6 seed in the AFC, are in their sixth conference title game in 12 years. The Panthers, No. 5 in the NFC, were in the Super Bowl two

years ago and finished 11-5 this season, as good a record as anyone in the NFC but the Seahawks.

In fact, a Super Bowl between two wild-card teams wouldn't be a huge surprise — it would hardly be a shock if the Steelers win Sunday in Denver and the Panthers win in Seattle.

A lot of it has to do with the coaches.

John Fox of the Panthers was the Giants' defensive coordinator when they got to the Super Bowl in 2001 and is 5-1 in the postseason with Carolina. His offensive coordinator is Dan Henning, a head coach with Atlanta (1983-86) and San Diego (1989-91), but also a former assistant under Joe Gibbs with Super Bowl winners in Washington.

What they've done in two games might even be called astounding: shutting out a top offense and moving at ease through a top defense.

Even New York's Tiki Barber, who normally is careful with his comments, noted (correctly) how badly Carolina outcoached the Giants in the Meadowlands, blanking an offense that had scored 421 points in the regular season, third most in the league.

Then the Panthers went to Chicago, scored 29 points and put up 434 yards on what all season had been the NFL's best defense. That was against Coach of the Year Lovie Smith, as Henning and Jake Delhomme exploited defensive weaknesses that no one else seemed able to find.

Pittsburgh?

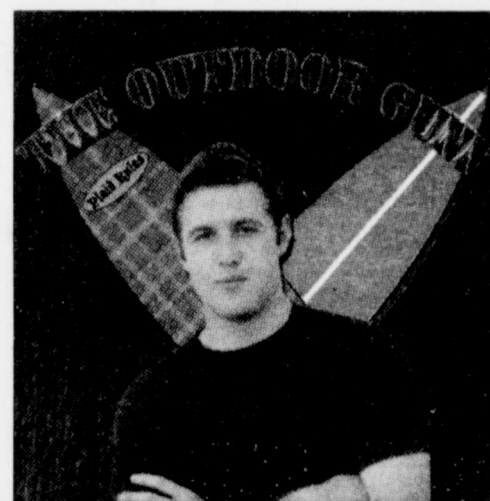
Cowher takes a lot of heat for four title-game losses at home. But maybe his critics should note that it takes a good coach to get that far six times in 12 seasons.

The defensive schemes cooked up by Cowher and coordinator Dick LeBeau, another former head coach, had Peyton Manning rattled and out of sync for three quarters of last week's game. He couldn't decipher the blitzes and was throwing off his back foot much of the time — just like his brother Eli did with the Giants against Carolina.

Also give the Steelers credit for offensive innovation. A team committed to the run more than any team in the league, they came out

see Wild card, page 15

### COMMENTARY



**T**his week I think I need to take a break from the outdoors and head inside to discuss what I consider to be one of the most disappointing things I have ever seen in the world of sports. I mean sure I have seen my share of missed calls by the NFL's "top" referees and botched plays by players considered to be the best at their position, but I don't think I have ever seen a team take a turn for the worst like the Indianapolis Colts.

Don't get me wrong, I am not a Colts fan by any stretch of the imagination. But when you see a team with so much talent win their first 13 games and then lose three of their last four and subsequently, be ousted from the playoffs you can't help but feel extreme disappointment.

When teams or players begin to perform at a level that could put them at a point never surpassed or really seen, they begin to foster the hope of all sports fans. I mean sure you are going to have those people out there who do not want to see the records of those great players or teams broken, but there is a little piece in each of us that holds onto that little hope that they might see it happen in their lifetime.

I remember growing up thinking that no one would ever break the 62 home run mark, yet Mark McGuire, Sammy Sosa and Barry Bonds accomplished the feat only a few years later and I remember all of those performances. To tell my children someday, that I remember where I was when McGuire hit 63... Ya those are the memories that make true sports fans.

Fans that have a passion for the game or at least an understanding of the game at its roots, its difficulty and a respect for those individuals that tempted to be great and eclipsed the edge of infamy in a burst of sparkling lights and media sensationalism.

I admit it I was holding onto the idea of the Colts meeting the 1972 Dolphins in the record books, and yes it was disappointing. I could not believe it when they lost to the Chargers and further I could not believe that they ended their season in a 18-21 loss to the Steelers.

I guess it is OK that they lost; it was really only the streak that I cared about, but for me when the Colts lost that game the NFL season was over. I am a 49er fan born and bread and my season would have

see Gunn, page 15